Extra cpy from Ann Christman

THE PIONEER PRESS

published by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

YEAR 18, Number 46

NOVEMBER 1994

Membership
Jul 1 to Jun 30
$2.50

PRESIDENT: Dorothy Murphy (95) 336-2624
VICE-PRESIDENT: Bob Yunghans (95) 336-2363
SECRETARY: Mary Steinlage (97) 336-3272
TREASURER: Joyce Olberding (95) 336-3334
Lillian Engelken (96) 336-3160
Ray Huninghake (97) 336-3790
Shirley Heideman (96) 336-2319
Marguerite Blaylock (96) 336-2524
Herbert Niehues (97) 868-2706
Earl Volz (96) 939-2170
Albert Winkler (95) 336-2280
Francis Davis (97) 866-5288

Dinner Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 20, 1994, in St. Benedict Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $5.50 per person. If you are not contacted by a board member and wish to make reservations, please call a person on the above list by the 16th.

1994-95 Dues: Please check your newsletter for expiration notice. If you see a stamp, then this will be your **LAST ISSUE** unless you renew your membership with Robert Yunghans, 401 N 3rd, Seneca, KS, 66538

Message From The President:

Since the summer of '94 is over, I thought you might like a review of some of our activities.

In the spring the west porch roof was repaired and shingled. The outside walls were caulked. Since that was done we haven't had wet walls or drips when it rains.

There were only 138 visitors that signed the register from April through September. The museum was kept open using volunteers, as Green Thumb did not have anyone available. Those who volunteered were Mary Steinlage, Bob Yunghans, Lillian Engelken, Joyce Olberding, Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Marguerite Blaylock, Mary Lindeen, Pauline Esslinger, Marjorie Allison, Sadie Waller, Rose Mary Holthaus, and Marcia and Michael Philbrick. Thank you to the summer volunteers who kept the museum open.

I really do appreciate all the work done and the workers who made Heritage Day a success. "Thank you" to the committees, the volunteer workers, those who donated or brought food, and to everyone who attended.

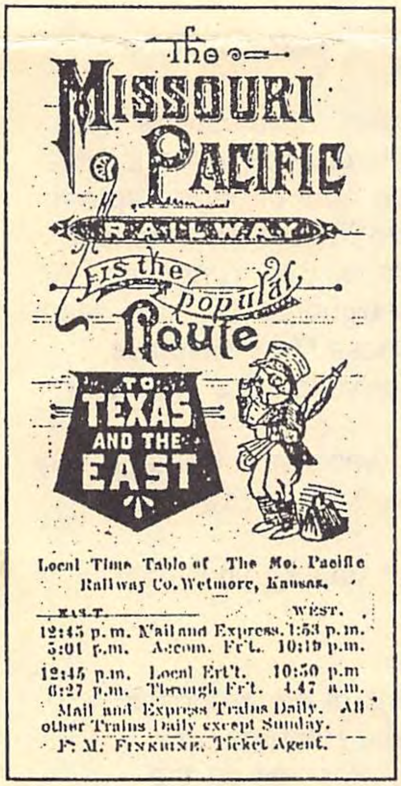
May 1995 be as successful as this year has been. It can be with your help.

Board Meeting Highlights:

Topics at the November 1st board meeting included status of the proposed museum annex, maintenance of the museum and its grounds, Heritage Day statistics, the formation of a Marion Hall preservation group, progress on the Bancroft depot project, the genealogical society's new project on bible records, new acquistions, changes regarding this newsletter, and a recommendation on how to handle preservation of old county schools requests.

Feature: Railroads in Nemaha County

In its first 50 years, the development of Nemaha County was influenced by four railroads. Two railroads laid track in Nemaha County in the 1860-70's. These were the Central Branch of the Union (Missouri) Pacific and the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad. A third to enter into the picture was the Kansas City, Wyandotte and Northwestern, which existed by late 1887. The fourth railroad was the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railroad, which later became the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad by 1908. The 1922 Atlas of Nemaha County had all four railroads although the Kansas City Northwestern had gone out of business by 1920. Many of existing towns developed because of their relationship with the railroads. As Tennal stated "towns virtually picked up their beds and walked." Towns included in this category were Albany, most of which moved to Sabetha, old Centralia, which moved over and down the hill to present Centralia, old Corning, which moved 1 1/2 miles becoming Corning, and Sother, which was negotiated and rebuilt further west as Goff. Three towns were named in honor of railroad executives of the Union Pacific Railroad: Wetmore was named for W.T. Wetmore, Goff was named for Edward H. Goff, and Sother was named for Thomas M. Sother.


The
MISSOURI
PACIFIC
RAILWAY
is the
popular
Route
TO
TEXAS
AND THE
EAST

Local Time Table of The Mo. Pacific Railway Co. Wetmore, Kansas.

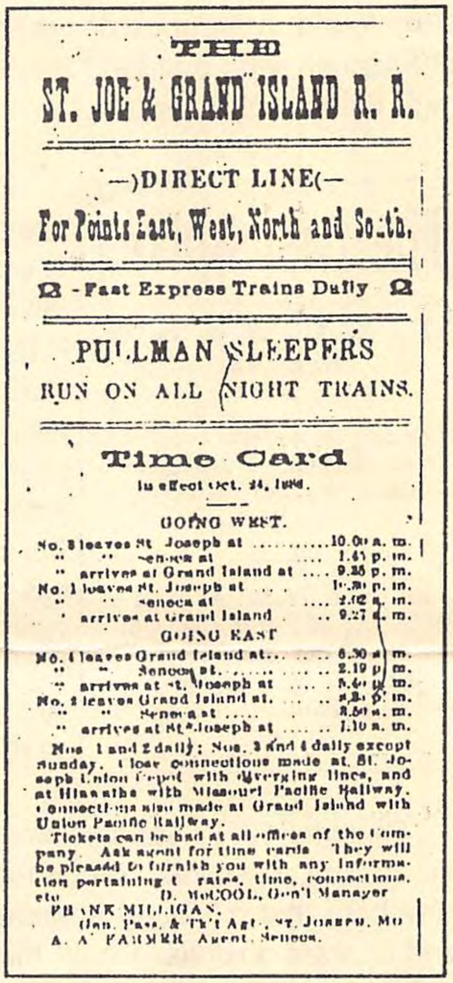
EAST.		WEST.
12:45 p.m.	Mail and Express.	1:53 p.m.
5:01 p.m.	Accom. Fr't.	10:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m.	Local Frt.	10:50 p.m
6:27 p.m.	Through Fr't.	4.47 a.m.

Mail and Express Trains Daily. All other Trains Daily except Sunday.

F. M. FINKBINE, Ticket Agent.

The first railroad in the county was the Central Branch of the Union (Missouri) Pacific. This road was proposed and surveyed as early as 1863. The U.S. government provided substantial aid for this railway corporation in its western expansion. Aid of 1.6 million dollars was granted for 100 miles of track from Atchison to Waterville in Marshall County. Needless to say, the corporation needed and received no aid from Nemaha County. In addition to monetary aid, alternate sections of land for a distance of ten miles on both sides of the track became railroad lands. From the east, the Central Branch entered Nemaha County about five miles north of the county line. It traversed in a northwesterly direction, completed to Wetmore by 1866, then to Sother, on to Corning and was at the present site of Centralia a year later. The railroad exited the county about ten miles from the southern boundary. The company virtually established both Wetmore and Centralia; though a postoffice of the latter name was in existence about seven years before the arrival of the road. In a Seneca newspaper issued in 1871, a full column advertisement by a broker and real estate agent named C. T. Whittenhall had "Central Branch U.P. Railroad lands, on 10 years time, at prices ranging from $5 to $10 an acre". In 1876 a station at Goff was established by the railroad and the depot a Sother discontinued. An interesting note was that one daily mail route for Sabetha came by stage from the Central Branch of the Union Pacific.

The St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad was the second to lay road in the county. On March 24, 1864, a second railroad convention of interested counties held a meeting in Seneca concerning a railway across the northern counties of Kansas. Eventually in 1866, the Kansas State Legislature passed an act granting donated federal lands to four railroad companies including the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad. By April 1866, a petition was presented to the Board of County Commissioners of Nemaha County, for an election on railroad bonds to the amount of $125,000. The bonds were to aid the building of a northern Kansas road so the track established in 1860 between Elwood and Wathena could be continued westward. An election was held on May 8, 1866. The bond issue passed with a vote of 322 for and 247 against. Sometime during 1870 this railway entered the county at Sabetha and proceeded westward touching Oneida. Within five years of the close vote, the road had been built to Seneca and on westward towards Baileyville. It left the county about 11 miles from the Nebraska line. Apparently, the editor of The Weekly Courier took a trip east on the line in 1871. He stated "One of the youngest and most thriving places on the line of the road is Sabetha, near the east line of Nemaha county. Here is a town less than six months old, the youngest in the county, though only second in size and population. It has a beautiful location, contains a large number of business houses and handsome residences, and with its important railroad prospects has a bright future before it." A little over a year later, The Seneca Courier stated "There has never been a better arrangement for travel over the St. Joseph & Denver City R.R. than at


THE

ST. JOE & GRAND ISLAND R. R.

—)DIRECT LINE(—

For Points East, West, North and South.

2 - Fast Express Trains Daily 2

PULLMAN SLEEPERS
RUN ON ALL NIGHT TRAINS.

Time Card

In effect Oct. 24, [illegible]

GOING WEST.

No. 3 leaves St Joseph at	10.00 a. m.
" " Seneca at	1.45 p. m.
" arrives at Grand Island at	9.25 p. m.
No. 1 leaves St. Joseph at	[illegible] p. m.
" " Seneca at	2.02 a. m.
" arrives at Grand Island	9.27 a. m.

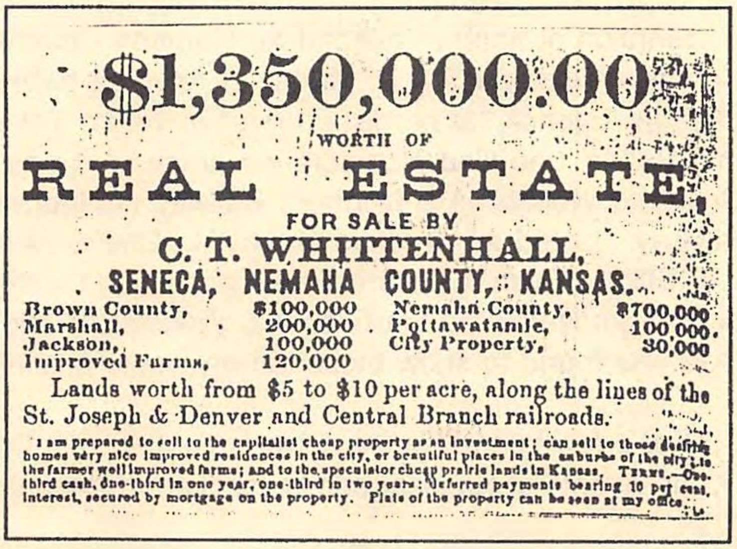
GOING EAST

No. 4 leaves Grand Island at	6.30 a. m.
" " Seneca at	2.19 p. m.
" arrives at St. Joseph at	5.40 p. m.
No. 2 leaves Grand Island at	[illegible] p. m.
" " Seneca at	[illegible] a. m.
" arrives at St. Joseph at	1.10 a. m.

Nos 1 and 2 daily; Nos. 3 and 4 daily except Sunday. Close connections made at St. Joseph Union Depot with diverging lines, and at Hiawatha with Missouri Pacific Railway. Connections also made at Grand Island with Union Pacific Railway.

Tickets can be had at all offices of the Company. Ask agent for time cards. They will be pleased to furnish you with any information pertaining to rates, time, connections, etc. D. McCOOL, Gen'l Manager

FRANK MILLIGAN,
Gen. Pass. & Tk't Agt., St. Joseph, Mo
A. A. FARMER Agent, Seneca.


$1,350,000.00

WORTH OF

REAL ESTATE,

FOR SALE BY

C. T. WHITTENHALL,

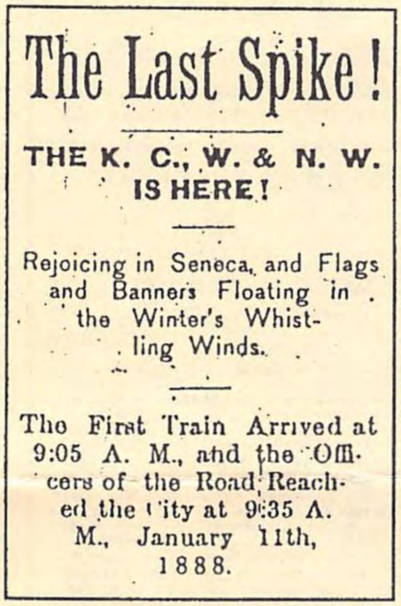
SENECA, NEMAHA COUNTY, KANSAS.

Brown County,	$100,000	Nemaha County,	$700,000
Marshall,	200,000	Pottawatamie,	100,000
Jackson,	100,000	City Property,	30,000
Improved Farms,	120,000		

Lands worth from $5 to $10 per acre, along the lines of the St. Joseph & Denver and Central Branch railroads.

I am prepared to sell to the capitalist cheap property as an investment; can sell to those desiring homes very nice improved residences in the city, or beautiful places in the suburbs of the city; to the farmer well improved farms; and to the speculator cheap prairie lands in Kansas. TERMS.—One-third cash, one-third in one year, one-third in two years: deferred payments bearing 10 per cent. interest, secured by mortgage on the property. Plats of the property can be seen at my office.

present. Parties can go to either St. Joseph or Atchison, and do several hours business, and return in good season". Sabetha received a daily mail from the east and west, via the St. Joseph & Western R.R. One of Sabetha's oldest landmarks, the railroad coal chute, wasn't dismantled until March or April 1953. An interesting story found in a Topeka newspaper about this coal chute was "A man by the name of Fletcher, who operated a hotel in Sabetha, took his own life by hanging from the high timbers of the chute."



The Last Spike!

THE K. C., W. & N. W. IS HERE!

Rejoicing in Seneca, and Flags and Banners Floating in the Winter's Whistling Winds.

The First Train Arrived at 9:05 A. M., and the Officers of the Road Reached the City at 9:35 A. M., January 11th, 1888.

One of the last two railroads to help in the development of Nemaha County was proposed in a county newspaper as early as March 1871. The name for this railroad was the Kansas City, Wyandotte & Northwestern R.R. but more commonly referred to as the Kansas City Northwestern. The railroad was to have begun on March 29, 1887. The railroad entered Nemaha county on his southern border at Ontario. It traversed the county in mostly a northerly direction establishing the town of Bancroft in late December of 1887. Other depots along this railway were Goff, Kelly, and Seneca. At Seneca, it joined the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad until Marshall county, where it again turned northward. The last date given for this railroad's life was December 22, 1919.

By early 1872, Sabetha and Pawnee City committees met with railroad people of St. Joseph, Missouri. A railroad representative, Supt. Barnard, told the committee members that a "liberal amount" of local money was needed before it would build and operate a route. Could this have been the beginning of Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railroad?

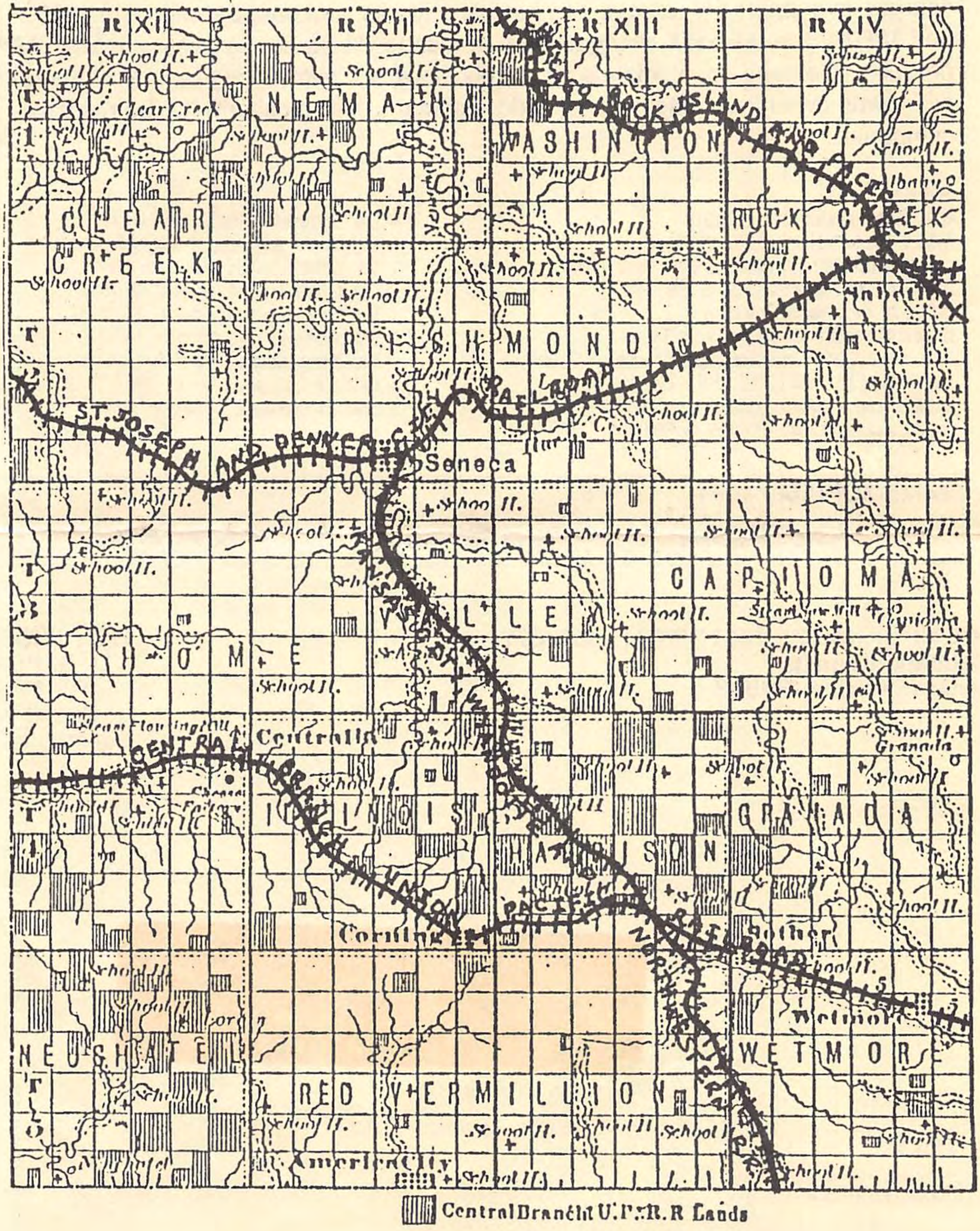
Mention of another railroad for Nemaha County included the Wamego, Seneca & Nebraska Railroad. N. B. McKay of America believed this railway was to be built through America "at no distant day" in 1871. Yet another railroad, proposed by the mid 1880's, had filed incorporation articles. It was to be called the Netawaka, Granada, Woodlawn & Northern Railway or Netawaka, Woodlawn & Northwestern Railway. Listed as directors were W.L. Challis, A.M. Houch, Richard McCliman, and J.B. Elliott. Even a Wetmore newspaper item stated the scheme was "sure to be built" from Netawaka via Granada, Woodlawn, and Oneida to Pawnee City, NE. No map was found to show these railways ever actually existed in the county.

For a few years, Kansans were pleased with the railroad situation. But gradually, the people of Kansas, and most likely Nemaha

continued on page 6

NEMAHA COUNTY, KANSAS, 1875

This map was found at the Seneca Free Public Library as a map to show railroad lands in 1875. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad plus the Kansas City, Wyandotte and Northwestern Railroad were added to the map for this article on Nemaha County railroads.



R XI
R XII
R XIII
R XIV
NEMAHA
WASHINGTON
CLEAR CREEK
ROCK CREEK
Clear Creek
Albany
Sabetha
CHICAGO ROCK ISLAND AND PACIFIC
RICHMOND
ST. JOSEPH AND DENVER CITY RAILROAD
Seneca
CAPIOMA
Capioma
VALLEY
HOME
KANSAS CITY WYANDOTTE AND NORTHWESTERN R.R.
Centralia
CENTRAL BRANCH UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
ILLINOIS
HARRISON
GRANADA
Granada
Corning
Wetmore
NEUCHATEL
RED VERMILLION
WETMORE
America City
School H.
T 1
T 2
T 3
T 4
T 5
Central Branch U.P.R.R Lands

countians, grew to understand the monopolies on real estate as well as transportation. The townspeople and farmers paid both taxes to loan money and shipping charges to support the railroad companies. Needless to say, between the 1860's and 1880's, the railroads changed from heroes to villains in the eyes of many. Most probably, Nemaha countians also held this viewpoint even though many of the county's towns owed their establishment, development, and prosperity to the railroad companies.

Sources:

Atlas of Nemaha County, KS, 1912
Atlas of Nemaha County, KS, 1922
First Steam West of the Big Muddy by Byron Guise
Goff, The First Hundred Years by Roy Bell
History of the State of Kansas by A. T. Andreas
History of Nemaha County by Ralph Tennal
Meacham's Atlas of Brown-Nemaha Counties, KS, 1887
Plat Book of Nemaha County, KS, 1908
Seneca Weekly Courier, February 10, 1871
Stories and Facts from KANSAS by Roy Bird
The Northwest Route by Leon Lowry
The Topeka Daily Capital, April 26, 1953
The Seneca Courier, March 29, 1872
The Seneca Tribune, January 12, 1888
The Weekly Courier, February 24, 1871
The Weekly Courier, February 16, 1872
The Weekly Courier, March 8, 1872
Wetmore Spectator, April 5, 1884
Wetmore Spectator, March 29, 1884

IN MEMORIAM - 1994

Irene Fangman *James Markley* *Blanche Riffer*

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Seneca, KS 66538

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EXPIRED
Please Renew

2-21-95

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published by
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Seneca, Kansas 66538

YEAR 19, Number 47

FEBRUARY 1995

Membership
Jul 1 to Jun 30
$2.50

PRESIDENT: Dorothy Murphy (95) 336-2624
VICE-PRESIDENT: Michael Philbrick (96) 336-3645
SECRETARY: Mary Steinlage (97) 336-3272
TREASURER: Joyce Olberding (95) 336-3334
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Albert Winkler (95) 336-2280
Francis Davis (97) 866-5288

Dues Increase: At the executive board meeting held on February 16, 1995, a motion was made to amend the society bylaws to increase annual membership dues to $5.00 per person and life membership dues to $100.00 per person beginning July 1, 1995. This amendment will be voted on at the next regular meeting to be held February 27.

Dinner Meeting: The Bern Cafe will be the site of the regular society meeting on Monday, February 27, 1995, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $5.50 per person. Reservation deadline is Friday, February 24. Please remember you must honor your reservation.

Message From The President:

Happy 1995! Let's hope this will be a successful year for the NCHS. Last year saw the planting of a seed for expansion. Through the generosity of Harry Burger, we will be able to have a new and larger building to replace the old garage. It will give us space to display to a better advantage the collections that are crowded into the jail cell downstairs. That will allow us to show that area as a jail cell.

The society will need to have more money to finish the building and for operating expenses. We will try for a grant for assistance with these expenses. We will be asking for donations and raising money to meet the match for the grant.

Memorials to the Historical Society at the time of the death of a loved one are a way to remember that person. For a donation of $50.00 or more you can have a picture of the deceased and a short bit placed in our memorial album.

Thanks to volunteers we were open through September last year. We plan to open again in April and will be needing volunteers again. Anyone willing to spend four hours an afternoon, if only one day a month, April through September, should call me at 336-2624.

Last year we did not have as many visitors to the museum as in 1993. There were two hundred fifty-nine who signed the register. That number included 99 from Seneca, 111 from other places in Kansas, 45 from twenty-six other states, and 4 from two foreign countries. Open house in October brought in 329 visitors.

The Genealogy Society has had interesting meetings studying old maps of the county and the abstractors records that were given to us by Tom Medill and Delores Aul. They record the original and early land purchases and sales from when the lands were sold by the United States government or the railroads through the year 1892.

The Bancroft Preservation Association has moved the depot to its new location in Bancroft and is in the process of restoration. They plan to be ready to open by summer.

If you have driven past the museum you will see that the three big cedar trees next to the building have been removed. They were giving us problems by the needles filling the eaves and causing the water to back up under the eaves. Gudenkauf Tree Service did the work and will remove the stumps, level the site, and seed the stumps area as soon as weather permits.

Before the annual meeting in June, the nominating committee will be getting candidates to fill four board positions. I am sure that there are many who would serve well. We need those who are interested and willing to help preserve our heritage. You know who you are. Let us know so that you may have the opportunity to serve.

Board Meeting Highlights:

Hot off the drawing board, building plans for the museum annex were displayed at the board meeting of February 16. It was reported that trees causing museum damage have been removed. A letter from Bob Yunghans regarding his resignation effective immediately because of health reasons was read and accepted. Michael Philbrick was appointed by action of the board to fill Bob's term. Dorothy Murphy will take over as membership chairperson until the end of the fiscal year. A nominating committee was appointed. Bancroft continues to plan for their depot open house this spring. The idea of producing a historic calendar will be investigated. A motion for a change in membership dues was made.

FEATURE: 120 YEARS AGO

TO EMIGRANTS

Let those seeking homes in the West remember that Nemaha County, Kansas, has two fully equipped lines of railroad (the St. Joseph & Denver City and Central Branch Union Pacific); all needed county buildings, including the finest Court House in the State; good school houses in every neighborhood; plenty of timber, coal, and building rock; is one of the best watered counties in the West; has an unlimited stock range; and is unsurpassed as an agricultural and fruit-growing region. Taxes are lower than in any other county in Kansas or the West. We have not a dollar's bonded indebtedness.

The previous paragraph was a common feature in the Seneca Weekly Courier, one of the two weekly newspapers in Nemaha County in the year 1875. Let's take a look back at this county 120 years ago. What can be found about the claims the newspaper was making to emigrants? What were the major events in the people's lives? Since 1875 was a Kansas census year, what clues does the census reveal? In general, what were the happenings 120 years ago in Nemaha County?

Nemaha County had been organized twenty years earlier in 1855 and was one of the state's seventy-four organized counties. Nemaha, meaning "a river that runs up stream", was one of sixteen counties bearing an Indian name.

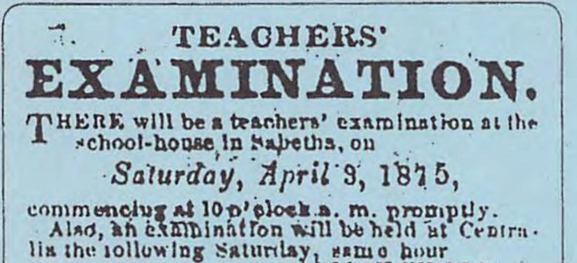
Were there two fully equipped railroads? To find out railroad buffs can read the last issue of the Pioneer Press. It was interesting to find an August notice that the Kansas portion of the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad was to be offered for sale on the 4th day of November at Marysville, Kansas.

It can be confirmed that all the needed county buildings existed in this time period. As for the claim of the "finest" courthouse in the state, mother nature released her fury on the Nemaha County courthouse more than once leaving us without the ability to critique this historic building.

Another important building to emigrants would have been the post office. Post offices were located throughout the county. Records indicate one would have found a post office in Albany, America City, Capioma, Centralia, Clear Creek, Corning, Granada, Lappin, Lorain, Neuchatel, Seneca, Silver Spring, Sother, and Wetmore. One of these sites, Silver Spring, had postal service terminated during 1875.

Good school houses in every neighborhood were a concern of both the residents and the emigrants. In fact there were 77 organized school districts and 74 school houses. That was more than one school for every ten square miles. What was happening throughout the year? January appointees to the Board of Examiners for Teachers's Certificates for Nemaha County were F.A. Griffin and E. Philbrook. Schools closing in March included District No. 22, Lincoln, Miss Charity Wells, teacher; No. 6, Ash Point, because of mumps; No. 15, Sufficool, Milton Todd, teacher; No. 56, Wiesedepe's, H. B. Marcy, teacher; No. 33, Wild Cat Creek, Pat Duignan, teacher; No. 58, Moore's, Miss Mary Marcy, teacher; America City, Mrs. D. T. Smith, teacher; and Meisner's district, Deer Creek, Mort. Mathews, teacher. By April the County Superintendent of Public

Instruction had been informed he would have his salary cut to $500 per year by state legislative action. The county school fund had received its first semi-annual dividend from the state school fund in the amount of almost $2400. In addition, the county had contributed $180, which came from fines and strays. Also in April, teachers' examinations were held in Sabetha and Centralia by the county board of examiners. Late May found county teachers being asked to attend an eight week normal institute on a model district school conducted at the Leavenworth Normal School. August found the Seneca School Board having employed a new teacher in the German department as promised by the principal, Professor Hoover. The German teacher's salary was reported as $50 per month. One can only speculate as to the reason behind hiring this teacher?



TEACHERS'

EXAMINATION.

THERE will be a teachers' examination at the school-house in Sabetha, on

Saturday, April 3, 1875,

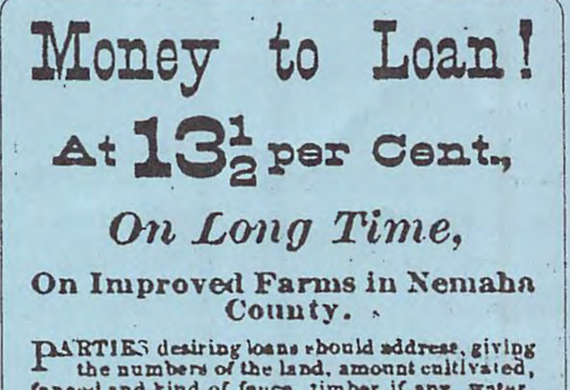
commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. promptly. Also, an examination will be held at Centralia the following Saturday, same hour.

ABIJAH WELLS,
F. A. GRIFFIN,
E. PHILBROOK,
Board of Examiners.

18

Was there plenty of timber, coal and building rock? Timber was plentiful with Nemaha County having many creeks and streams. Natural timber included ash, cottonwood, elm, hackberry, hickory, locust, oak, sycamore, and walnut. Medium grade coal had been found and was being gathered by strip mining and underground mining. Four to thirteen inches thick veins were common in the underground mines of the county. Building rock was also easily attainable.

Was the county one of best watered of the West? Would it be possible to hand dig a well? Creeks in the county were named Deer, Harris, Illinois, Grasshopper, Pony Creek, Rock Creek, Vermillion, French and Turkey. Good well water was only 35-40 feet below the surface.



Money to Loan!

At 13½ per Cent.,

On Long Time,

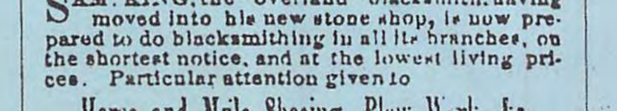
On Improved Farms in Nemaha County.

PARTIES desiring loans should address, giving the numbers of the land, amount cultivated, fenced and kind of fence, timber if any, water, quality of land, house and its size, barn or stable, orchard—kind and number of trees, and any other improvements adding to the value of their farm.

GEO. GLOSSER,
Attorney at Law and Loan Agent,
ATCHISON, KANSAS.

As for the claim of unlimited stock range, it is true that not all the land was occupied. Land was being sold for twelve dollars per acre or less.

The horse would have been an important animal to both the townsperson and the farmer. So how many horses were there? Records indicated more than one horse for every two people. The number of horses reported ranged from 4624 to 4975. Other animals in the county included over 17500 cattle, 1019 sheep, almost 5500 hogs, and of course, man's best friend, 3906 dogs.



BLACKSMITHING.

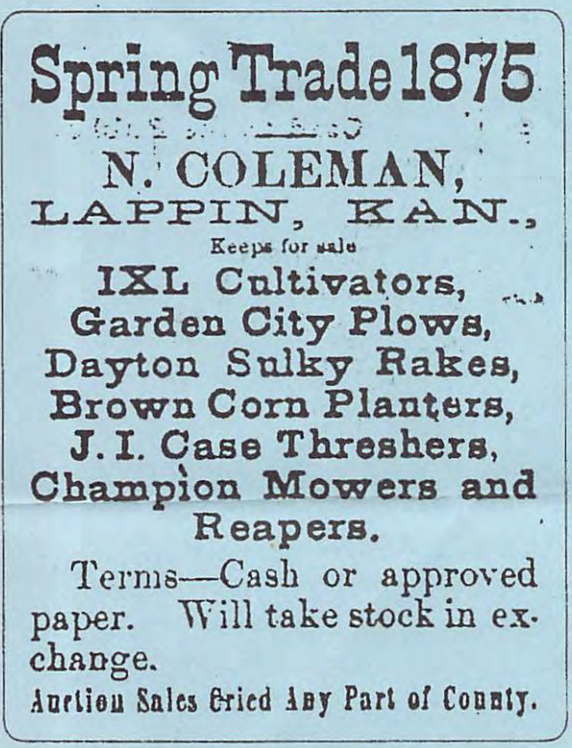
SAM. KING, the "overland" blacksmith, having moved into his new stone shop, is now prepared to do blacksmithing in all its branches, on the shortest notice, and at the lowest living prices. Particular attention given to

Horse and Mule Shoeing, Plow Work, &c.

Shop opposite the Stone church, Seneca, Kan.

Farmers had built over half a million dollars worth of fencing. This fencing used hedge, wire, board, rail, and stone. There were 243,446 rods of rail fence.

Are farmers producing the same crops today as they were last century? You decide. Farmers, with over $77,000 invested in implements and machinery, were raising the crops of winter wheat, rye, spring wheat, corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, sweet potatoes, sorghum, castor beans, flax, hemp, tobacco, broom corn, millet, timothy, and clover plus harvesting prairie hay. Corn was the crop covering the highest number of acres as it accounted for almost 50% of agricultural production in the county and about eight percent of state production. Sweet potatoes recorded the highest yield of 145 bushels per acre, but only one-fourth of an acre was in production. Barley was bringing the highest price at $1.25 per bushel. Only 15% or 72,370 acres of the 460,800 acres in Nemaha County were being used in crop production bringing a product value of six hundred ninety-six thousand and six dollars. ($696,006.00)



Spring Trade 1875

[illegible]

N. COLEMAN,

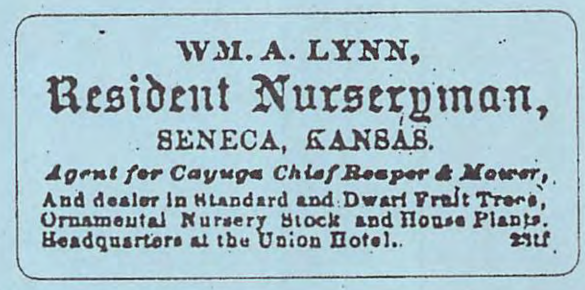
LAPPIN, KAN.,

Keeps for sale

IXL Cultivators,
Garden City Plows,
Dayton Sulky Rakes,
Brown Corn Planters,
J. I. Case Threshers,
Champion Mowers and Reapers.

Terms—Cash or approved paper. Will take stock in exchange.

Auction Sales Cried Any Part of County.



WM. A. LYNN,

Resident Nurseryman,

SENECA, KANSAS.

Agent for Cayuga Chief Reaper & Mower,
And dealer in Standard and Dwarf Fruit Trees,
Ornamental Nursery Stock and House Plants.
Headquarters at the Union Hotel. 23tf

What kind of fruit growing region was Nemaha county? Over twenty acres of vineyards were in existence. Orchards in the county added up to over 1500 acres. Senecans were busy setting out an "unusual" number of fruit and ornamental trees in late April. One may check the census for an accounting of the bearing and unbearing fruit trees.

Just maybe the claim to emigrants about taxes was correct. However, at the first of the year, Nemaha County was listed as having a tax deliquency with the state. The State Auditor later discovered erroneous assessments and had credited the county by mid May. So in reality, the Nemaha County treasurers had overpaid the State since 1860 to a sum of over $1400. One might also ask how much taxable property was in the county 120 years ago. Why don't you take a guess. If you guessed $2,591,827.36, then you hit the valuation exactly. The city of Seneca was listed at $77,453.20 while city of Sabetha was $23,546.00. Richmond Township was placed at $343,476.31 for the highest township, but $45,765.00 was attributed to the railroad. Harrison Township personal taxable property was the county low at $3,193.25.

The Board of County Commissioners levied a county tax levy of nine (9) mills upon the dollar on all the taxable real and personal property in Nemaha county. Some townships had one (1) mill on the dollar for a township tax and road tax varying from one (1) to three and one half (3 1/2) mills on the dollar. Other taxes were for outstanding school district bonds and interest thereon. Now, hadn't the emigrants been led to believe that there was not a dollar's worth of bonded indebtedness. Rates for school district taxes ranged from two (2) mills on the dollar in district no. 51 and thirty-one (31) mills on the dollar in district no. 54. For those readers who want a more complete historical account of the early money and tax transactions of the county, the April issue of the Sabetha Advance in 1875 had a multipage summary.

WM. A. LYNN,
Agent for the farmer's favorite
"CAYUGA CHIEF"
MOWERS & REAPERS,
SENECA, KANSAS.
Headquarters at Cave's harness shop.

One might be asking about the people living in the county that were making the decisions. Who were they? Where were they from? What were their beliefs? Some facts about these questions were found and are answered in a general nature..

The population numbered 7,770 persons; that's between ten and eleven people per square mile. There were about 275 more males than females. Twenty three colored persons inhabited the county. There were more families, 1681, than houses, 1656, in the county. Richmond Township had the largest population and Washington Township the smallest. About one-sixth of the population was in Rock Creek Township.

Almost six thousand of the residents were United States natives. From which state did most emigrants migrate to Nemaha County? Did you guess Illinois? One sixth of the emigrants came from Illinois. Most states were represented including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Masssachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and District of Columbia.

The greatest number of foreign-born residents came from Germany, of which 61 of the 372 came directly to Nemaha county. Next in line was Ireland, followed by England and Wales, British America, southern Europe, Scotland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, France, northern Europe, and Italy. These people were located in every part of the county. Richmond Township had the largest number of foreign-born residents with 258. Washington, Nemaha, Clear Creek, and Neuchatel Townships had 29-31% of their population being foreign-born.

RICHMOND & ADAMS,
Dealers in
Stoves, Hardware, and Agricultural Implements
Of all kinds, and Manufacturers of
Tin, Copper, and Sheet Iron Ware,
MAIN STREET, SABETHA, KAN.

If one includes the thirty unorganized counties, the state averaged less than four churches per county in 1875. Our county had nine including Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, Epis-

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Corning Gazette
of Nemaha County, Kansas
September 1898 to November 1902

by Enid and John Ostertag

The Nemaha County Genealogical Society will be publishing the book, The Corning Gazette of Nemaha County, Kansas September 1898 to November 1902. This is a record of a small weekly paper, one of many in this time period, that gives the present day reader a vivid glimpse of the past. This compilation names the people and everyday events including their births, marriages and deaths as reported in the Corning Gazette during this four year time period. The book contains 218 pages of information regarding these people plus an every name index. This is a weekly record that everyone who had a family living in the Corning area, Nemaha County or northeast Kansas at the turn of the century will find and develop a new respect for what their parents, grandparents, ancestors and their neighbors endured. Those interested in the history of the Corning area, Nemaha County and northeast Kansas will find the book loaded with local "gossip."

Enid Harris Ostertag, of St. Joseph, Missouri, abstracted the information from the newspaper and her husband, John, entered the information into computerized format. Enid Harris Ostertag was raised in the Corning area and undertook this project to learn more about her family and their neighbors.

Pre-Publication Order Form
Offer Expires April 1, 1995

The Corning Gazette
of Nemaha County, Kansas
1898 to Sept 1902

Name: ______________________

Street: ______________________

City: ______________ State: ________ Zip + Four: ________-______

_____copies The Corning Gazette @13.50 each Total Due __________

Enclose a check or money order made out to the Nemaha County Genealogcial Society and mail to:

The Nemaha County Genealogical Society
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, KS 66538

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope. If sufficient orders are received, the envelope will be used to notify you of the expected publication date. If not, it will be used to return your check. Price will rise to $18.50 after publication.

copal, Catholic, and Universalist. Seneca had three of the nine churches. The Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed of stone, with pastor J. A. Amos, held two services on Sunday and a prayer meeting on Tuesday evening. The Roman Catholic Church, with pastor Thomas M. Bartl, O.S.E., was holding three Sunday services. Two services were being conducted by pastor Geo. Bent at the Congregational Church.

In mid-March at Centralia, Rev. L. C. Biggs preached his farewell sermon at the Methodist-Episcopal church. Sabetha also had three churches. Pastor G. Gates conducted a Baptist service the first and third Sabbath of the month. The First Congregational, with H. W. Shaw, pastor, had Sunday services, a Friday evening prayer meeting, and were dedicating their church in April. Alternating Sabbath services were held at the M.E. church by C. E. Chillson, pastor.

to be continued next issue

The editor of the Pioneer Press and the executive board would be very interested in your comments regarding the format of the last two issues of this newsletter. Please call and let someone know your interests in the history of Nemaha County. Do you have ideas on how to improve this newsletter? Your opinions are being solicited.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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THE PIONEER PRESS

published by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

YEAR 19, Number 48 MAY 1995

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$5.00

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Francis Davis (97) 866-5288

Renewal Time: This is your last issue of The Pioneer Press for the 94-95 year. It is time to renew your valued membership. A form for renewals, or better yet new memberships, is located in this publication.

Dinner Meeting: Mark your calendar. The City Hall in Goff will be the site of the next dinner meeting on June 11 starting at 6:30 pm with a delicious $5.50 meal. Reservations need to be made by June 5.

Message From The President:

Work on the Burger Building is progressing rapidly, between rains, now that it has started. The foundation was poured Wednesday, May 10, then it rained.

The museum has been open most of the scheduled days. We still need volunteers for the fourth Friday and the first, third and fourth Saturdays of each month. The hours are 1:00 till 5:00 p.m.

Among the other visitors this spring have been Susan Bowman's cub scout den and Mrs. Helm's and Mrs. Buzzard's classes from the Seneca Grade School.

The Centralia Library gave the museum twenty-six bound volumes of the Centralia Journal Leader and a glass display case. From the NRCS office, we received several sets of plat maps of the county showing land owners and the rural schools. These maps are not dated but were made before the location of Highway 36 was changed.

The society has received bequests from the estates of Altha Bobbitt, $250.00, and of Ruby Hecht, $1014.66. Memorials have been made to

(continued on page 2)

Harold Clowe by Ruth and Ruby Hecht by her family and friends. These monies will be used to help furnish an area in the new building.

The Bancroft Preservation Society has been working hard and fast to meet their deadline. Their invitation appears below.

The Genealogy Society begins its second full year. This summer they will attempt to index the obituaries in the bound editions of the Seneca newspapers to help complete the index started by the WPA project that went until 1935. Copies of the index will be placed in the library and the museum.

It is time to renew memberships and to encourage others to join. A good time to renew will be at the June dinner meeting. Bring a friend. They may enjoy it enough to join. Remember--the dues are now $5.00 yearly or $100.00 life membership. If you join the Genealogy Society, the $10.00 dues includes Historical Society membership.

I have served as president of the society for two years. Now it is time to turn over the reins to someone else. I have enjoyed my terms as president and appreciated the support and cooperation of the board and members. I hope you will give my successor the same consideration as you have given me. I have agreed, if re-elected, to serve another term on the board and will continue to work for the preservation of our heritage.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
GRAND OPENING OF THE BANCROFT MUSEUM
DEDICATION-RECEPTION: SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1995 2:00-4:00
OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1995 10:00-11:30 AND 3:00-4:00
MONDAY, MAY 29, 1995 10:00-2:00

For more details about the Bancroft Preservation Association, the Bancroft School Reunion Dinner-Meeting, or Bancroft church services, contact Mary P. Leighty, P.O. Box 126, Tecumseh, KS 66542 or phone (913) 379-5779.

Come Join Us!
The Pony Express Preservation Society
MUSEUM KICK-OFF
Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 PM
at the Museum Building (4th & Main, Seneca, KS)

Pony Express Era Fashion Show & Cordon Bleu Dinner

ADMISSION BY RESERVATION ONLY
R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, May 30
$25.00 per dinner (applicable toward the Donor Plaque)

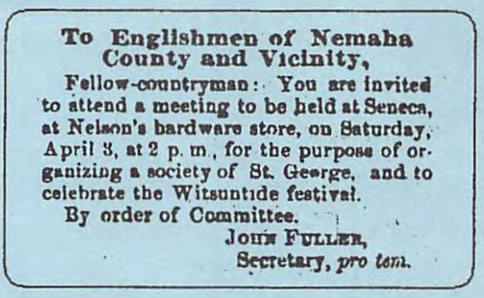
The event will kick off the Society's Donor Plaque Fundraiser
For More Info Call
Myra Koch 336-3988 or Barb Huninghake 336-6520

FEATURE: 120 YEARS AGO TO EMIGRANTS

Let those seeking homes in the West remember that Nemaha county, Kansas, has two fully equipped lines of railroad (the St. Joseph & Denver City and Central Branch Union Pacific); all needed county buildings, including the finest Court House in the State; good school houses in every neighborhood; plenty of timber, coal, and building rock; is one of the best watered counties in the West; has an unlimited stock range; and is unsurpassed as an agricultural and fruit-growing region. Taxes are lower than in any other county in Kansas or the West. We have not a dollar's bonded indebtedness.

The previous paragraph was a common feature in the Seneca Weekly Courier, one of the two weekly newspapers in Nemaha County in the year 1875. Last issue a look back at our county 120 years ago began with an analysis of the above paragraph. This issue will focus on the events in the peoples lives. What kind of businesses were being established? What could a person do in a time without cars, radios, televisions, vcrs and computers?

People had quite a choice and variety of associations to devote their leisure time and evenings. Centralia was active in January forming the Centralia Relief Association and the Anti-Tobacco Society. The latter was probably in response to the southern emphasis in our neighboring county to the west and their tobacco production and businesses. Also in January, another Relief Society was formed by Valley Township. February 1875 found mention of the existence of the Seneca Dramatic Club. In the southern part of the county, the Neuchatel Relief Society met on Saturday the 13th of February, organized, and elected E. L. Horth, president. The Nemaha County Teachers' Association met regularly throughout the year but February was the coming term meeting with Superintendent Wells being elected president. The Dramatic Association of Seneca performed "Bread Upon the Water" for the benefit of the poor at the Court House in March. April found Seneca organizing a St. George Society of Nemaha for giving advice and assistance to Englishmen and Welchmen. W. F. Troughton was elected president. Also this month, the Sabetha Library Association was meeting at Mrs. D. P. Stone's home. In May, the citizens of Centralia and vicinity met for the purpose of forming a library association. These lovers of intellectual recitations organized the Centralia Library Association. May 27 and May 28 were dates given for the semi-annual meeting of the Nemaha County Sunday School Association. This association held its meeting in Sabetha at the Congregational church. Represented were Sabetha Congregational, Sabetha M.E., Centralia M.E., Seneca Union, Seneca Universalist, Capioma Union, Albany M.E., Rock Creek Union, Pleasant Grove M.E., Union Dale Union, and Clear Creek M.E. Mention was also found of the Seneca Dorcas Society. The Seneca Base Ball Club was organized in mid-August with twenty-two members. Elected president of the ball club was R. M. Emergy. The club wasted little time as their first game was played the next Tuesday after organizing.



To Englishmen of Nemaha County and Vicinity,

Fellow-countryman: You are invited to attend a meeting to be held at Seneca, at Nelson's hardware store, on Saturday, April 3, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of organizing a society of St. George, and to celebrate the Witsuntide festival.

By order of Committee.

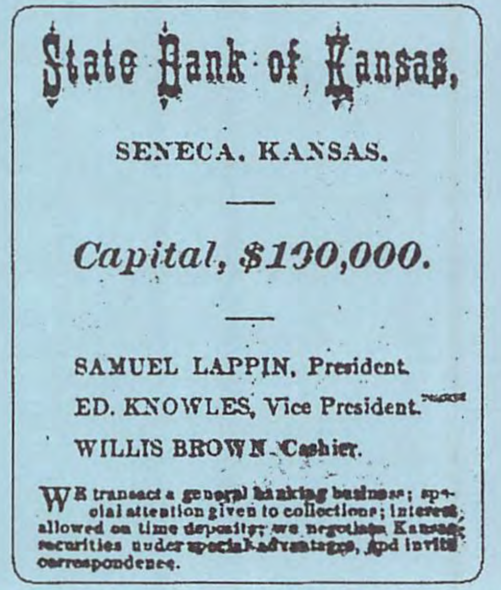
JOHN FULLER,
Secretary, *pro tem.*

What kind of historical preservation was happening? The Nemaha County Centennial Association held a regular meeting in September in which committees and appointments were made. Committees were identified as auditing; field, garden, and orchard products; beasts, birds, and fishes; soils, minerals, and building stone; fine arts, botony, and mechanic arts; and county history, churches and schools. In November a question of the worthiness of the pioneers of Nemaha county organizing a pioneer association for the preservation of the historical facts and interesting incidents connected with the early settlement. Yes, it seems these early Nemaha Countians made an attempt, but a new question comes to mind--what happened to their record?

The annual harvest feast of the Patrons of Husbandry of Nemaha County was held at Seneca, on Saturday, October 9. The procession was to form at Hardon's Grove, where the exercises of the day were to take place and the dinner eaten. Every grange in Nemaha County was earnestly invited to attend in a body, and to help make a display.

Was the county just as the easteners thought or did the people have some culture? You decide. The year ended with the Nemaha Valley Musical Association meeting for their seventh semi-annual session for four days in December at Sabetha. The conductor was Professor H. R. Palmer of New York. The convention was to close with a grand concert on Christmas eve.

Societies included I.O.O.F. Nemaha Lodge, No. 19, with W. E. Young, N.G. located in Seneca and Central City Lodge, No. 125, with J. E. Moon, N.G. located in Sabetha. Five Masonic Halls located throughout the county included the Seneca Lodge, No. 39, Seneca, D.R. Magill, W.M.; Home Lodge, No. 80, Centralia, John Ingram, W.M.; Grenada Lodge, No. 53, Wetmore, T. E. Dubois, W.M.; Sabetha Lodge, Sabetha, W. M. Slosson, W.M.; and Nemaha Lodge, No. 13, America City, Laborious Brenner, W.M.



State Bank of Kansas,

SENECA, KANSAS.

Capital, $100,000.

SAMUEL LAPPIN, President.

ED. KNOWLES, Vice President.

WILLIS BROWN, Cashier.

WE transact a general banking business; special attention given to collections; interest allowed on time deposits; we negotiate Kansas securities under special advantages, and invite correspondence.

At this time in Kansas history, our state had 26 national banks and 86 banks of deposit. Of these 112 facilities, Nemaha County indicated three in existence. What was happening behind the scenes in Seneca? In January, Lappin and Scrafford closed their business doors just as the State Bank of Kansas, of Seneca, opened with $100,000 of capital. On the board of this new bank were Lappin and Scrafford, who was later identified as bank president. The first draft on this bank monies was claimed by West. E. Wilkinson, editor of the Seneca Courier. A charter for the Sabetha State Bank was filed with the secretary of the state of Kansas in February. Corporators listed for this bank included Lewis R. Zahm, Sneathen Vilott, and others. The third bank identified was the Exchange Bank in Sabetha.

Fourty-three breweries were producing a portion of the "lager" drank in the state. Seneca had a brewery. Does anyone know where it was located?

Early in 1875, Dr. Graham, of Wetmore, had been arrested for selling liquor without a license, but was acquitted by a jury. But why had his faithful friend Shumaker been the complainant? Also in January, John Alexander was granted a license for a saloon in Seneca. Alexander was reported to be headed to St. Joseph for a supply of McNeely's O.K., a full-line of wines, champagne, brandy, the best St. Joseph beer, and all the essentials for keeping the reputation of the Seneca Saloon, the best bar in Seneca. In April, Sabetha's city election had a "warmly contested" issue regarding the number of saloon licenses for the next year. Only one saloon license was approved to Charley Kaffer. The end of May revealed that Smith and Cook had paid the Seneca city license fee for a legalized saloon. The same week C. W. Ingram also paid the saloon license fee and had rented the J. P. Cone building on main street for a saloon. This brought the number to three operating saloons in Seneca and $1500 annually to the city coffers. The newspaper said "Even grasshoppers don't seem to effect the demand for whiskey."

Other manufacturing in the county included a steam sawmill, steam flouring mills, a steam gristmill, and two cheese factories. The cheese factory in Centralia was to open in May. The proprietors were reported to be determined that it shall be second to no factory in the West.

Apparently, the cheese factories of Centralia and Granada were successful as over 800,000 pounds of cheese were made according to the 1875 Kansas Census for Nemaha County. The census indicated butter was also being made in the county. How much butter you ask? Well, how does the figure of 270,275 pounds strike you. The number seems impressive until you figure out thats only thirty-six pounds per year or a little over two sticks per week per person. Still too much for your palate, then maybe your share was part of the 3000 pounds being shipped by Seneca's stone store to Houston, Texas in early September.

What were the people paying for sugar? In Seneca at the City Drug Store, one dollar would have bought you eight pounds of sugar in March. The Centralia Store was advertising receipt of a large line of wall paper during late April. The ladies were asked to make note of this because the prices were to be so low all could afford to paper every room in their house. Did the farmers call on Coleman's business and see for themselves? N. Coleman of Lappin was the sole agent for the "Champion" reaper and mower. He was claiming it as the only machine in the county that could do the work of satisfactorily harvesting flax.

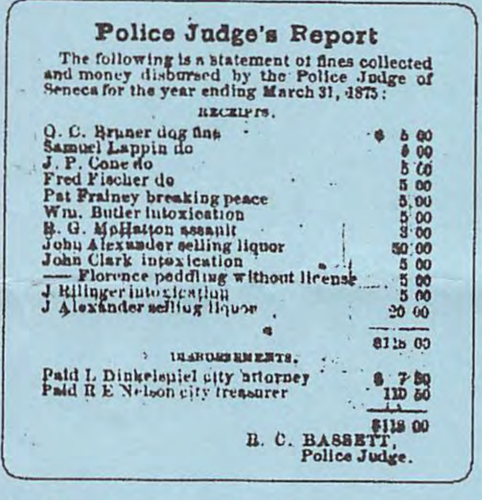
HO, FARMERS!

SENECA HOMINY MILL.

WE will manufacture either white or yellow corn into hominy for 50c a bushel—feed and hominy are yours. Bring corn for hominy on Saturdays. [illegible]

Politics were already playing an important part in the building of the county. Both the Sabetha and Seneca newspapers were Republican. April was a political time just as it is in the present day. The results were in from the city elections in Sabetha and Seneca. Sabetha had a new mayor, W. H. Hook and L. R. Wheeler had been voted police judge. Councilmen elected were M. E. Mather, L. V. Turner, A. L. Austin, Willis M. Slosson, and John Muxworthy. Seneca's election results were J. H. Larew, mayor; George Graham, police judge; and as councilmen, J. H. Peckham, Dr. Magill, G. W. Earl, A. Kelm, and John Fuller. In October, the Republican county convention convened.

Delegates represented townships ranging from twenty for Richmond to one for Washington. The remaining townships and their delegate numbers were Rock Creek (14), Nemaha (2), Clear Creek (2), Home (9), Capioma (7), Valley (8), Red Vermillion (5), Granada (3), Harrison (4), Neuchatel (6), Wetmore (8), and Illinois (4). How many ballots were needed to get the nominations? Ballots reported to nominate were sheriff (3), coroner by acclamation, coun- ty commissioner-first district (2), second district (1), third district by acclamation, county clerk (2), treasurer (9), register of deeds by acclamation and surveyor by acclamation.



Police Judge's Report

The following is a statement of fines collected and money disbursed by the Police Judge of Seneca for the year ending March 31, 1875:

RECEIPTS.

O. C. Bruner dog fine	$ 5 00
Samuel Lappin do	5 00
J. P. Cone do	5 00
Fred Fischer do	5 00
Pat Frainey breaking peace	5 00
Wm. Butler intoxication	5 00
B. G. McHatton assault	3 00
John Alexander selling liquor	50 00
John Clark intoxication	5 00
—— Florence peddling without license	5 00
J Killinger intoxication	5 00
J Alexander selling liquor	20 00
	$118 00

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid L. Dinkelspiel city attorney	$ 7 50
Paid R E Nelson city treasurer	110 50
	$118 00

B. C. BASSETT,
Police Judge.

It is the feeling of this writer that the news story of the year was the destitution in the county brought on by the grasshoper devastation of the 1874 crops. What follows is some of the statistics related to this destitution.

The township trustees of all the townships in Nemaha county have made their reports to the Clerk upon the destitution existing in their localities. Capioma and Home townships are the only ones declaring themselves able to keep themselves. The other townships make their estimates, which are published below--the total number in the county being 964---515 of whom are over 12 years of age. Of the 918, Rock Creek has 46, Washington 1, Nemaha 86, Clear Creek 136, Richmond 44, Valley 73, Granada 129, Wetmore 128, Red Vermillion 45, Neuchatel 132, Illinois 42, and Harrison 102.

The wants of this regiment of "destitoot" are as follows: Rock Creek wants 27 daily rations until May 10, 3 coats, 7 blouses, 7 trousers, 14 shirts, 12 drawers, 12 pair stockings, and 4 pair boots or shoes. Washington does not want any rations, but a complete suit of clothing including a pair of No. 8 boots and a forage cap, with a "chang" of shirts, drawers, and stockings. Nemaha wants 13 forage caps, 15 coats, 17 blouses, 15 trousers, 28 shirts, 20 drawers, 23 pair stockings, 16 pair boots or shoes, 18 blankets, and 86 daily rations for 70 days. Clear Creek wants 18 forage caps, 31 coats, 27 blouses, 33 trousers, 58 shirts, 55 drawers, 49 pair stockings, 42 pair boots or shoes, 35 blankets, and 136 daily rations for 70 days. Richmond wants 13 forage caps, 13 coats, 13 blouses, 13 trousers, 14 shirts, 13 drawers, 14 pair stockings, 14 pair boots or shoes, 18 blankets, and 44 daily rations for 70 days. Valley wants 15 forage caps, 19 coats, 22 blouses, 24 trousers, 32 shirts, 24 drawers, 29 pair stockings, 29 pair boots or shoes, 19 blankets, and 59 daily rations for 95 days. Granada wants 11 forage caps, 18 coats, 31 blouses, 30 trousers, 37 shirts, 35 drawers, 58 pair stockings, 45 pair boots or shoes, 21 blankets, and 127 daily rations for 90 days. Wetmore wants 18 forage caps, 25 coats, 25 blouses, 32 trousers, 35 shirts, 20 drawers, 20 pair stockings, 21 pair boots or shoes, 60 blankets, and 128 daily rations for 50 days. Red Vermillion wants 1 forage cap, 10 blouses, 10 trousers, 14 shirts, 3 drawers, 20 pair stockings, 10 pair boots or shoes, 18 blankets, and 45 daily rations for 80 days. Neuchatel wants 18 coats, 30 blouses, 38 trousers, 33 shirts,

in consultation with his legal advisers, Messrs. Guthrie & Brown and John Martin, all of this city. At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Lappin and his attorneys, together with Messrs. Randolph and Peck & Ryan, on the part of the State, appeared before Esq. Brier. Mr. Lappin waived an examination, and the Justice, after some arguments on the part of the counsel, fixed his bonds at $7,000 on the charge of forgery and counterfeiting, and $3,000 on the charge of embezzlement. The court then adjourned till 8:30 to give Mr. Lappin an opportunity to procure bail. The time until 10 p.m. was occupied in trying to procure bondsmen, but it was not done and he was left in charge of the Sheriff. It is believed that Mr. Lappin will be able to secure bondsman today. [1]

Samuel Lappin within the next month was off to Chicago, but was he telling the truth?.

Mr. Lappin was arrested in Chicago on Friday last (January 1876), by ex-sheriff Drought of Wyandott county. He was arrested on a requisition from Gov. Osborn, on a charge that Lappin was deficient to the State in the general revenue, to the amount of $830. Mr. Lappin gave bail in the sum of $2,000 for his appearance before the Justice yesterday. Mr. Lappin's attorneys claim that he admitted when he turned over the funds of the treasury to his successor that there was a slight deficit and that he would make it good in a few days, that he was in Chicago for the purpose of disposing of some real estate to raise finances to pay his creditors and was expecting to return to Topeka this week. The $2,900 memorandum receipt given to the treasurer of Nemaha county is claimed to be the sole property of that treasurer, and the state has nothing to do with it. The amount deficient in the general fund is $537 and Donnell, Lawson & Co. claim that they have overpaid on the interest account of the state $240. Mr Lappin and his attorneys avow that they will fight this matter to the bitter end. The suit on which Mr. Lappin was arrested in Chicago has been consolidated with his criminal suit. The prosecution claims it has undisputed evidence that Mr. Lappin was about to leave the country, and expressed themselves that he shall not be allowed to leave until after his trial. An adjournment was had till 3 o'clock yesterday and his bail fixed at $15,000. In default of bail, he was put in jail. [2]

The county (Shawnee) jail in the old courthouse was not as solid as its successor and escapes were frequent. Probably the best record for eluding the county officers was scored by Sam Lappin, whose escape bordered on the miraculous.

The strangest thing about it was that the hole through which he left, if only stories are correct, woulld be a tight fit for a 3-year-old child while Lappin weighed anywhere from 220 to 320 pounds.

Lappin had been State Treasurer and during the period of his official career had conceived a plan, nothing except the miscarriage of which prevented his acquisition of wealth.

He had prepared a spurious issue of bonds and associating with himself his brother-in-law, C. G. Scrafford, was preparing to sell the false securities when the authorities dropped on to the scheme and his arrest followed.

From all accounts Lappin was slippery. Spence Wade, the sheriff, adopted every precaution but the ex-treasurer with the same acuteness which had won his election to one of the most responsible offices in the state, arranged things and once succeeded in getting out of his cell. While moving away with some alacrity, he was discovered by the sheriff and secured.

It was about July 1876 that Lappin finally escaped. His cell was found vacant and a couple of the iron bars in the window cut out.

At first it was quite generally believed that he had utilized this method of egress, but later in the day a 7-year-old boy tried to go through with a man at each end assisting. The youth failed and some doubts were expressed as to the plausibility of the theory first advanced. Some old settlers still insist, however, that Lappin stripped naked, greased his body, and slipped through the hole like an eel.

Lappin disappeared altogether and went, as was afterwards learned, to South America where he was joined by Scrafford, his companion in crime. The ex-treasurer remained away for nine years. Then he returned to America and peddled books in the northwest for a year before being recognized.

He was brought back and released on bail pending trial but was never tried. The matter was simply dropped.

Scrafford returned even before his brother-in-law. W. D. Bisbrow, the successor to Sheriff Wade, was sitting in his office one day when a stranger entered and asked for the sheriff. Disbrow said he was the man and the stranger expressed a desire to give himself up. He said he was Scrafford and was tired of wandering about the world. The sheriff locked him up and in due time he was tried and convicted. He secured another trial and received an acquittal. [3]

So how did he really escape the jail?

(to be continued in future issue)

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Wichman *Father Henry Deters*

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

EAR 20, Number 53

AUGUST 1996

Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

PRESIDENT: Lillian Engelken (99) 336-3160
VICE PRESIDENT: John Harter (99) 336-3925
SECRETARY: Dorothy Murphy (98) 336-2624
TREASURER: Mary Steinlage (97) 336-3272
Herbert Niehues (97) 868-2706
Francis Davis (97) 866-5288

Ray Huninghake (97) 336-3790
Frances Bloom (98) 857-3572
Eugene Visser (98) 868-2398
Roland Cordon (98) 868-2736
Marguerite Blaylock (99) 336-2524
Joyce Olberding (99) 336-3334

DINNER MEETING

Board member Herb Niehues reports the ladies of the Goff Methodist Church will cater our upcoming dinner meeting on September 8th. The meeting will be at the Goff City Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cost of the meal will be $6.50. Get your reservations called in to a board member or officer by Wednesday, September 4th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time is fast approaching for the 20th anniversary of the annual fall celebration. The celebration will be held on Sunday, October 6th. Plans are being made for another gala event. If you have any ideas on new or different activities, please call me. Help from you is what makes our organization. Your help will be solicited in the near future. I know you will volunteer your time, energies and baked goods. By helping the fall celebration will continue to be a success. In this way the history of Nemaha County and the American way of life will be kept alive.

Speaking of help, I want to use this space to personally thank and name the volunteers that kept the museum open this past summer. Thank you to Marjorie Allison, Rosemary Holthaus, Rachel Bergman, Gladys Buser, Mary Steinlage, Lillian Engelken, Beanie Koch, Mary Ann Berkley, Dorothy Lorson, Sadie Waller, Lorena Ronnebaum, Mary Lindeen, Grace Strathman, Joyce Olberding, Darlene Huerter, Leta Tangeman, Odelia Brokamp, Alan Ward, Pauline Esslinger, Dorothy Buetzer, Marcella Mathewson, and Dorothy Pearl Murphy. The volunteers will continue keeping the museum open during the afternoons throughout the month of September. If you haven't visited in a while, take the opportunity in the next month to do so.

The roofing project for the museum has been completed by Roger Haug Construction. The roofers stripped the old roof from a majority of the museum. They left a sample which is on display in the museum. The old roof had seven layers of asphalt shingles plus several layers of wood shingles. With the new roof and loss of this excess weight, the museum should last many more years. This maintenance will be well worth the combined generous donations of our members and society funds.

Membership chairperson Dorothy Pearl Murphy reminds me to ask you to check your mailing label. If your membership expired last June 30, 1996, this will be your last newsletter. Please renew so you will be able to continue the enjoyment of learning about the history of our county, state and nation as the newsletter expands to an additional page with this issue. The renewal fee is $5.00 per person for historical only or $10.00 per person for historical and genealogical. You may send your renewal to Dorothy or to the museum.

I was also asked by the newsletter editor to call for assistance in locating issues of the newsletter from the early years of the society. Please call Mike (913-336-3645) or myself if you can help him locate any issues of the newsletter prior to May 1990.

In closing, I know our society can have another rewarding year with your continued help and support.

RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBER
Up Close and Personal

Joyce Olberding returns to the board after a one year layoff. Joyce and her husband Eldon operated Eldon's Jewelry in Seneca for 35 years before retiring. They have two grown children, Judy and Janice. She states her goal to be "preserving the past". A personal item she has preserved is her father's Uncle Sam hat. As museum curator the past few years, Joyce has been deeply involved with the displays and exhibits in the Harry C. M. Burger Annex.

Mark Your 96-97 Calendar

Aug. 20	Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sep. 8	Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Goff City Hall
Oct. 6	**Annual Open House**
Oct. 29	Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17	Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Centralia-Methodist
Feb. 11	Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 2	Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Corning-Catholic
May 13	Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Jun. 1	Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Seneca-Valentino's

DINNER MEETING REFLECTIONS
JUNE 2, 1996

The quarterly dinner meeting of the society was held in the basement of the St. Benedict school on Sunday evening, June 2nd. The roast beef dinner catered by Valentino's of Seneca was scrumptous. The tablecenter and conversation pieces were historic artifacts, such as an old cookbook, the little brown jug, and an antique noodle cutter.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by the Rock Castle Quartet. This barbershop group sang some gospel arrangements and a couple of Civil War era songs they had performed for the April re-enactment. Members of the group are Doug Todd (Todd Tractor merchant), John Trail (Bern teacher), Dirk Colgrove (Nemaha Valley teacher), and Stan Murphy

(Nemaha Valley Community Hospital employee).

Can any of you history buffs answer the question of the historical significance of this music group's name? Bring your answer to the September dinner meeting.

Eugene Visser and Albert Winkler reported they had completed sealing the flat roof over the jail with materials donated by Clarence Engelken. Since this maintenance was past due, Albert suggested this portion of the roof be reinspected at the end of the summer.

Herbert Niehues commented that he had contacted Roger Haug Construction about the main residence roof project. He had been given a verbal committment that it would be completed before the annual fall open house.

The annual election of four members was conducted. Re-elected were Lillian Engelken, Marguerite Blaylock, and John Harter. Joyce Olberding was chosen to the final seat.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 11, 1996

The officers elected for 1996-97 were President-Lillian Engelken, Vice President-John Harter, Secretary-Dorothy Murphy, and Treasurer-Mary Steinlage. The official newspaper will be the *Courier-Tribune*. The official depository for society funds has been designated as the Citizens State Bank.

The following appointments were made: Pauline Esslinger, public relations; Marguerite Blaylock, scrapbook; Joyce Olberding, museum curator; Dorothy Pearl Murphy, membership; Frances Bloom, obituary; and Michael Philbrick, newsletter editor.

1995-96 YEAR END REPORTS

Treasurer:

Balance, 6/30/1995	$ 1232.80
Receipts	$ 45301.05
Expenditures	$ 42331.91
Balance, 6/30/1996	$ 4201.94
Money Market Savings	$ 5628.46

Membership:

Regular Members	209
Life Members	43
Total Members	252

Curator:

Many items were donated in the past year. Donations were made by Harry Burger (ice saw, ice tongs, shop lathe, H.D. Burger wedding suit, M.M. Burger 1835 oil lamp, 1900 dehorning saw, iron soap kettle); sisters of Harry Burger (Emily-1902 crystal and ruby baby cup, high school year book, glass fruit dish, Christine-6 piece hand painted china); Nemaha County shops (dynamite charge blaster, county treasurers stamp, tire tube repair container); Hobert Nutter (notes & papers history from Nemaha Commercial College); Mabel Grollmes estate (30 odd school directories); Dolly Olberding estate (several items); Dean Agnew (Seneca Public high school yearbooks 1948-54); St. Benedict alumni (30 years of school paper *Chimes* and a book *Our School*); Alvin Leslie of Auburn, WA. (Synder family history and assorted early Seneca pictures); Pauline Esslinger (Seneca Public high school items); Mary Ann York (collection of items from Harsh Drug Store dating from 1879 and D.B. Harsh era); Les Droge (selection of C.C.C. camp pictures and paper *Lies*); late Dr. and Mary Gilbert (copper apple butter kettle); Dr. Norman Berkley (several items); Schmelzle Poultry (egg grader); and Omar Haug family (washing machine).

FEATURE

SLIDING THROUGH THE BARS
OR
SCANDAL IN STATE TREASURY

Another version of the escape appeared in the *Topeka Daily Capital* in 1930.

While cleaning up some old files the other day, Del Valentine, veteran clerk of the state supreme court, found an old letter that took him back over the old trails to the time when Sam Lappin, state treasurer, absconded with a lot of the state school fund.

The letter was written by Walter Stanley, the man who helped Lappin escape from the Shawnee county jail, accompanied him on his wanderings thru South America, finally left the absconding treasurer and his brother-in-law, Charles G. Scrafford and made his way to Oregon, where he lived and died.

Del Valentine had known "Filibuster" Stanley in the state house. Stanley was treasury guard, employed by Lappin, and Del's father, Daniel M. Valentine, was associate justice of the supreme court. So it was but natural that "Filibuster" Stanley should write to Valentine in 1882. Stanley gave a graphic description of the escape and wanderings of Lappin.

Stanley had no connection with Lappin's embezzlement activities. He was importuned by Mrs. Lappin to help the fat old treasurer get away from Topeka, and Stanley's adventurous spirit prevailed. He went to Silver Lake, hired a team of ponies and spring wagon. He asked the liveryman how much the team would cost if it was never returned, and paid a steep price. He drove to Topeka, Lappin was placed in the bottom of the wagon, a tarpaulin thrown over him, and Stanley drove across the bridge without discovery, tho Marshal Dustin was standing in the center under a bright light.

Stanley, in his letter to Del on that Christmas day in 1882, detailed the difficulties in getting to Nebraska, then accross the Missouri at Sioux City, IA, to Duluth, MN, by boat to Sarnia, Canada, finally to Quebec, by rail to Portland, ME, and by steamer to New York, where they took passage on a steamer for South America on August 14, 1876. A few days out and the boiler exploded, and another steamer towed them back to New York. They were frightened lest the officers nab them, but later they got to Callao, Peru, where Scrafford had already sought refuge. Lappin was surprised to meet his brother-in-law, Stanley's letter told Del, but they worked together selling lubricating oil until quarrels separated them.

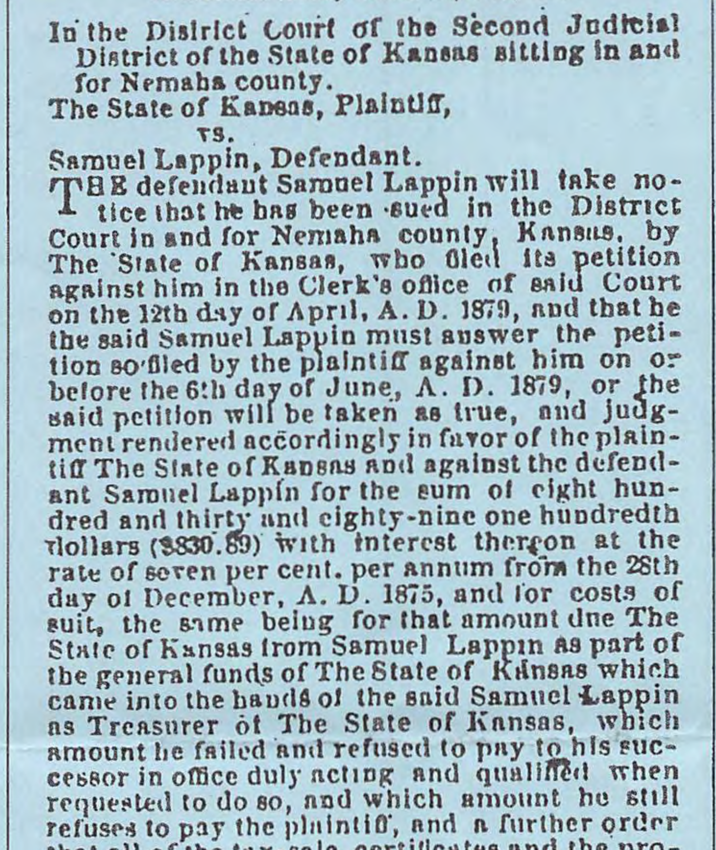
Scrafford was finally arrested and brought back to Kansas, Lappin escaping into Brazil during 1877 or 1879, arrived in Boston, MA, about January 3, 1880, and sold books and maps thru the southern states. Wandering over the country, the absconding treasurer saw many of his old Kansas friends, but it was not until he arrived in Tacoma, Washington, in 1884, that a man, Jacob Wiesbach, informed upon him, and he was brought back to Topeka on October 23, 1884, by the sherriff of Tacoma.

After years of unsuccessful attempts to bring Lappin to trial he was released, returned to Seneca, cheated his creditors and finally left the state and returned to Washington. He died there August 4, 1892.

The state had seized sufficient property from the two men to more than pay off the stolen bonds, so the school fund lost nothing by the thefts.[7]

The *Topeka Capital* is not happy over the verdict in the Scrafford case, and under the heading "The acquittal of Scrafford," gives vent to the feeling of the editor as follows: "The end anticipated by many has at last been reached, and in face of proofs of guilt admitted by the defense, Chas. G. Scrafford is acquitted by the jury and goes free. If Chas. G. Scrafford is innocent, so is Sam. Lappin. Let him be sent for and returned to his family, and let it be proclaimed that there is no law in Kansas under which officers who betray their trusts and rob the State can be punished. If Sam Lappin deserves the penitentiary, then does his partner and associate, who assisted him in his deliberately planned and skillfully executed attempts to rob the school-fund of Kansas. Any paper that says the public sentiment of Topeka, or the State of Kansas sustains this acquittal of Chas. G. Scrafford, lies -----plainly, distinctly, and emphatically we say, lies in the interest of Chas. G. Scrafford.[8]

from *Seneca Weekly Courier*, April 25, 1879



In the District Court of the Second Judicial District of the State of Kansas sitting in and for Nemaha county.

The State of Kansas, Plaintiff,

vs.

Samuel Lappin, Defendant.

THE defendant Samuel Lappin will take notice that he has been sued in the District Court in and for Nemaha county, Kansas, by The State of Kansas, who filed its petition against him in the Clerk's office of said Court on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1879, and that he the said Samuel Lappin must answer the petition so filed by the plaintiff against him on or before the 6th day of June, A. D. 1879, or the said petition will be taken as true, and judgment rendered accordingly in favor of the plaintiff The State of Kansas and against the defendant Samuel Lappin for the sum of eight hundred and thirty and eighty-nine one hundredth dollars ($830.89) with interest thereon at the rate of seven per cent. per annum from the 28th day of December, A. D. 1875, and for costs of suit, the same being for that amount due The State of Kansas from Samuel Lappin as part of the general funds of The State of Kansas which came into the hands of the said Samuel Lappin as Treasurer of The State of Kansas, which amount he failed and refused to pay to his successor in office duly acting and qualified when requested to do so, and which amount he still refuses to pay the plaintiff, and a further order that all of the tax-sale certificates and the proceeds thereof for land situate in Nemaha county, Kansas, which certificates were for the taxes of 1872 executed at the tax-sale by the treasurer of said Nemaha county in 1873; on which certificates there were subsequent payments of taxes indorsed, which were the same tax-sale certificates placed by Samuel Lappin in the hands of D. B. McKay and S. B. Murphy to secure them as bondsman of O. C. Bruner, county treasurer, in the beginning of the month of January, A. D. 1876, which said certificates were garnisheed in this action in the hands of D. B. McKay and Johnston Bros., and are now held in the hands of J. H. Johnston as special receiver appointed by the District Court of Nemaha county for that purpose, be ordered by said Court to be sold, and the proceeds of said tax-sale certificates be applied to the payment of the amount found due The State of Kansas from Samuel Lappin in this action, together with sufficient to pay the costs of suit.

WILLARD DAVIS, Attorney General, and
SIMON CONWELL,
22 Attorneys for Plaintiff.

Lappin appeared in court, December 23, 1885 ready for trial but Attorney General Bradford entered a *nolle prosequi.*

Several reasons were given by the attorney general for his action among which were that the forged bonds, which were essential to proving the forgery, were missing; that the witnesses were scattered and some of them dead; that the state had been fully reimbursed; that there was no possible chance of securing a conviction; and that Lappin had probably suffered sufficient punishment in his years of bannishment. The *nolle prosequi* was allowed and Lappin went forth a free man. He immediately left Kansas and since then very little has been known concerning him.

Whatever became of the forged bonds is not known. They were delivered to Attorney General Willard Davis to be used in the case against Lappin soon after his arrest. Davis said that he put them in a box and thought that he turned them over to State Treasurer Francis who succeeded Lappin. Francis and the succeeding treasurers say that they never saw the box or the forged bonds.

Such is a brief summary of one of the most remarkable and sensational cases in the history of the state. [9]

The state had incurred an expense of over $2500 in the prosecution of the case connected to this fraud. [10]

Samuel Lappin died at the house of one of his daughters in La Center, Clark county, Washington. He died of hemorrhage of the lungs.

It is now your decision. Did Samuel Lappin slide through the bars? Was Samuel Lappin guilty of scandal in the state treasury? Or could it have been that Mr. Lappin was just following the example of George Graham ?

Local member Robert Strathman has found a news article showing that George Graham also had troubles as state treasurer in 1869. The legislature began an investigation into his alleged keeping of interest on state deposits. The commission never concluded its investigation or filed any specific charges. Was Samuel Lappin aware of this incident? Was Mr. Lappin just hoping the same conclusion would happen?

This concludes this presentation on the Samuel Lappin incident. The editor continues to research this incident and plans an expanded version under separate cover. He recommends the article in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1977, Number 1, which is available at the Seneca Free Public Library.

SOURCES:

7 Topeka Daily Capital, June 22, 1930, page 10C
8 Seneca Weekly Courier, August 1, 1879, page 4
9 Topeka Capital, August 30, 1892, page 1
10 Kansas State Historical Society, Vol. 12, page 210

EDITOR'S NOTE

Experimentation with a different computer program to produce a more professional-looking newsletter was tried this issue. A different style of printing was chosen with goal of making the newsletter easier to read. This program should give your editor more flexibility once he learns how to use more of its features. Please let me know how you like (or dislike) this different format. Written comments can be sent to the museum.

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HISTORY OF OFFICERS

1976-77
President: Amelia Sudbeck
Vice Pres: Rachel Bergman
Secretary: Grace Kelley
Treasurer: Mary Gilbert

1977-78
President: Amelia Sudbeck
Vice President: Eva Stark
Secretary: Grace Kelley
Treasurer: Mary Gilbert

1978-79
President: Amelia Sudbeck
Vice President: Eva Stark
Secretary: Grace Kelley
Treasurer: Mary Gilbert

1979-80
President: Mary Gilbert
Vice President: Earl Volz
Secretary: Rachel Bergman
Treasurer: Amelia Sudbeck

1980-81
President: Robert Strathman
Vice President: Earl Volz
Secretary: Mildred Goens
Treasurer: Amelia Sudbeck

1981-82
President: Robert Strathman
Vice President: Earl Volz
Secretary: Mildred Goens
Treasurer: Amelia Sudbeck

1982-83
President: Robert Strathman
Vice Pres: Nancy Tempel
Secretary: Mildred Goens
Treasurer: Donna Kirk

1983-84
President: Earl Volz
Vice Pres: Wilfred Christman
Secretary: Marjorie Allison
Treasurer: Donna Kirk

1984-85
President: Earl Volz
Vice Pres: Wilfred Christman
Secretary: Majorie Allison
Treasurer: Donna Kirk

1985-86
President: Amelia Sudbeck
Vice President: Donna Kirk
Secretary: Marjorie Allison
Treasurer: Melba Slocum

1986-87
President: Amelia Sudbeck
Vice Pres: Wilred Christman
Secretary: Melba Slocum
Treasurer: Donna Kirk

1987-88
President: Amelia Sudbeck
Vice Pres: Wilfred Christman
Secretary: Melba Slocum
Treasurer: Donna Kirk

1988-89
President: Ann Christman
Vice President: Al Buser
Secretary: Melba Slocum
Treasurer: Amelia Sudbeck

1989-90
President: Ann Christman
Vice Pres: Albert Winkler
Secretary: Mary Sourk
Treasurer: Amelia Sudbeck

1990-91
President: Albert Winkler
Vice Pres: Eldon Olberding
Secretary: Mary Sourk
Treasurer: Al Buser

1991-92
President: Albert Winkler
Vice Pres: Eldon Olberding
Secretary: Zita Bergman
Treasurer: Ann Christman

1992-93
President: Albert Winkler
Vice Pres: Robert Yunghans
Secretary: Mary Steinlage
Treasurer: Ann Christman

1993-94
President: Dorothy Murphy
Vice Pres: Robert Yunghans
Secretary: Mary Steinlage
Treasurer: Joyce Olberding

1994-95
President: Dorothy Murphy
Vice Pres: Robert Yunghans
Secretary: Mary Steinlage
Treasurer: Joyce Olberding

1995-96
President: Lillian Engelken
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Secretary: Dorothy Murphy
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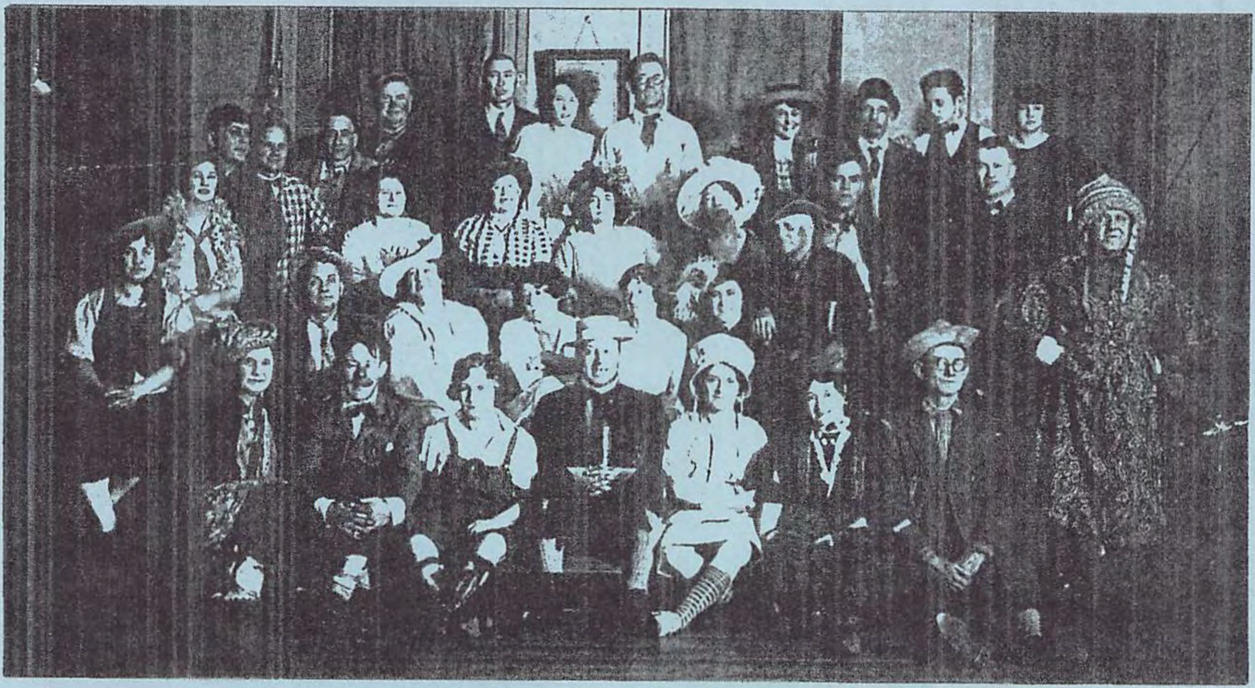
Treasurer: Mary Steinlage

This information regarding this printout of the history of the officers of the Nemaha County Historical Society was researched, compiled, and submitted by Mary Steinlage.

IDENTIFICATION HELP NEEDED



On the back of this photograph from the museum is penciled "Dance Class or Club about 1919". Contact our curator Joyce if you can help identify any of the people?

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Membership Expires:6/30/97
Mary Steinlage
Rt 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

8-31-96

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YEAR 20, Number 54

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Dinner Meeting

The dinner meeting will be held in the Centralia Methodist Church on November 17th at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner will be $6.50 per person. Reservations must be turned in to Lillian Engelken by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14. Local arrangements are being prepared by Rose Domer. All members are encouraged to attend the dinner meeting. Members are reminded that if they make a reservation, they are obligated to pay for their dinner(s).

President's Message

In order to continue to have groups willing to prepare the food for the dinner meetings, it is necessary to guarantee a minimum number of participants. If enough society members do not RSVP for each of the dinner meetings, then the society may have difficulty finding groups willing to host the meetings. This issue will be discussed at upcoming dinner meetings.

Open House Reflections

A successful open house was held on October 5, 1996. As part of the festivities, Sheila and Marcy Sudbeck, of the St. Benedict area, provided entertainment on the front porch by playing various tunes on one of the society's pianos. Another highlight of the day was the performances of the Rock Castle Quartet throughout the building and grounds. Members of the quartet are Dirk Colgrove, Stan Murphy, Doug Todd and John Trail. The annual *pot of gold* was won by Melvin Bergman.

$572.48

The open house netted a profit of $447.48 for the society. It should be noted that the board decided to not solicit donations from local businesses this year. The board appreciates the donations these businesses have made in the past and hopes that the businesses will continue to support the work of the society.

The board would like to thank everyone who donated their time and skills to make the day celebrating the history of Nemaha County successful. A special thanks also goes to everyone who participated in the day's activities.

Resignation Accepted

Dorothy Pearl Murphy has submitted her resignation as board member and secretary. Dorothy Pearl has agreed to continue her role in the society as membership chairperson. Dorothy Pearl has been a very active member of the board, serving several years as president of the society. Recently, she completed the research and writing of an application to put the sheriff's residence and jail on the National Register of Historic Places. The board would like to express sincere thanks to Dorothy Pearl for all of her efforts on behalf of the society and hopes that someday she will be able to return to the board.

New Items at the Museum

Mr. and Mrs. August Olberding, Jr. donated a cleaner and blocker for hats. An electric washing machine from the 1940's was donated by Emmett Mealy. These two items are currently located in the Burger Annex. Joe and Leola Locher donated a bear coat and a buffalo coat, to the museum. The bear coat is hanging in the "general store" area of the museum, while the buffalo coat is hanging on the west side of the jail cells on the first floor. Albert Huerter donated a lap robe which was made from the coat of the family horse after its death. Since a permanent location has not been determined for the lap robe, it is on the bench in the office.

Editor's Note: *Another try at finding a style suitable for the society's newsletter can be seen in this issue as I was not pleased with the boldness of the print fo the last issue. This issue is a potpourri of historical information collected from a variety of sources instead of one main article. To start out, the reader is presented with three articles about Civil war participants who had military ties to General George A. Custer.*

A Historic Regiment

The 6th Michigan Cavalry, a gallant fighting regiment of Custer's Brigade, Kilpatrick's Division, Cavalry Corps, held its annual meeting at Ionia, Michigan, December 31, with 75 survivors present. There were 15 deaths duri the year. Colonel J. H. Kidd, Ionia, was elected President; J. H. Dennis, Hastings, Secretary; Levi H. Bernard, Tresurer, and J. O. Probasco, O. S. Tower, and G. W. Barbour, members of the Executive Committee. A banquet was held. This regiment stood fourth in point of losses among the Union cavalry regiments, having had 135 men killed or died of wounds. Its greatest loss in any single engagement was at Falling Waters, Md., where a squadron of four companies under Major Peter A. Weber made one of the most gallant cavalry charges of the war. A division of Confederates retreating from Gettysburg had intrenched their position on the Potomac to cover the retreat. The outer line of works was carried, but the cavalry was obliged to retire, losing Major Weber and two other officers killed. In this action 28 were killed mortally wounded. At Hawes's shop the command lost 18 killed or mortally wounded. Here the brigade fought dismounted. During Sheridan's cavalry campaign, from May 4 to June 30, 1864, the regiment last 29 killled, 60 wounded and 61 missing.

There are four of Custer's boys in Nemaha county: Billy Lynn, of Mitchell; Ben Health, of Seneca; T. W. Haskinson, of Wetmore, and Jonathan Irwin, of Illinois township, the three latter belonging to the 6th Michigan Cavalry. Mr. Haskinson and Irwin were with the regiment three years and three months, being with it when it passed through Seneca in 1865 on its way across the plains to quell an Indian uprising. Both were in the charge at Falling Waters. Mr Irwin being left for dead on the field.

Source: Tribune, January 20, 1898
Submitted by Scott Suther

Another Custer Boy

Last week we published an account of the reunion of a regiment of Custer's brigade taken from the *National Tribune*, and included a list of survivors of the brigade residing in this county. The names of the survivors were furnished us. We have since learned that Norman Shaul residing west of this city was a Custer boy and was mustered out of service in Utah in 1865.

Source: Tribune, January 27, 1898
Submitted by Scott Suther

Question: Who can find the item in the newsletter that has a different meaning for people living in present as compared to the past?

A Present From Mrs. Custer

John Irwin has received a book and a tie from Mrs. Custer, wife of General Custer, of which he is justly proud. The tie is a silk tie such as General Custer always wore, and is to be worn on Memorial day. On it is embroidered in gold "Custer" and the dates 1863 1910. The book is a memorial volume issued in connection with the dedication of the Custer monument or statute erected at Monroe, Michigan, June 4, 1910. It contains a fine picture of the statue as well as halftone cuts of General Custer, Mrs. Custer, President Taft and other prominent persons who took part in the unveiling ceremonies. All surviving members of the Custer Brigade were presented with a volume. As far as he knows, Mr. Irvin is the only surving member of the Custer brigade in Kansas. The late William Lynn was also a member.

Source: Tribune, April 18, 1912
Submitted by Scott Suther

Looking ahead into the fall and winter, I could not help but think about how we celebrate our holidays. With the next article, it is interesting that viewpoints have not much.

Buy At Home

Under the above heading an exchange gives the following sound advice to its readers, which we think will apply to more than one locality, not excepting Seneca:

"The holiday season is fast approaching, and it is a time when most of our merchants expect to do a thriving business. Some of our people are in the habit of going elsewhere to get their holiday goods, when they can buy them just as advantageously at home. The more money that is spent at home, the more the people and city are benefitted, while every dollar that is taken away is just so much taken from our business men. The principle of buying away from home is in itself wrong and damaging to home interests, and as long as our people persist in it, the community will feel its effects. Buy at home, and let this year's holiday season be a busy and properous one."

Kristmas

AND NOT **Cuba**

has your attention just now.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE

is not at Santa Claus dream, but a

Christmas Store House

of Useful and Practical Presents...

Neckwear.

The fin desiecle of fashion. Tjes of all the Latest Styles and Shades.

Hats and Caps

in profusion and all are up-to-date.

Ulsters,

Overcoats and

Suits in unsurpassed

QUANTITY,
QUALITY,
STYLES and
VARIETIES

We have made our greatest effort for a veritable Christmas feast to please our patrons and can boast of success. Every variety, size and style of raiments is carried in stock and retailed at

The Lowest Possible Price

At the **GOLDEN EAGLE.**

You will find every branch of business represented here, and moreover, you will have large lines of goods and rich, fashionable, and desirable displays to select from, and that too at prices within the reach of all. There is no necessity of going to St. Joseph and Atchison for articles that you want. By making your holiday purchases of our merchants we know that you will secure good bargains. We advise you at all times to do your trading at home. Do you see any advertisements of foreign merchants in THE COURIER? They don't invite you to come and trade with them. Our merchants do.

Source: Courier, December 10, 1875

. A poem from 100 years ago has been included to go along with the holiday idea.

The Farmer's Thanksgiving

The earth is brown, and skies are gray,
  And the windy woods are bare,
And the first white flakes of the coming snow
  Are afloat in the frosty air;
But the sparks fly up from the hickory log
  On the homestead's broad stone hearth,

And the windows shake, and the rafters ring,
To the lads' and lassies' mirth.

The farmer's face is furrowed and worn,
And his locks are thin and white;
But his hand is steady, his voice is clear,
And his eye is blue and bright,
As he turns to look at his sweet old wife,
Who sits in her gown of gray,
With the cobweb 'kerchief, and creamy frills
She wore on her wedding day.

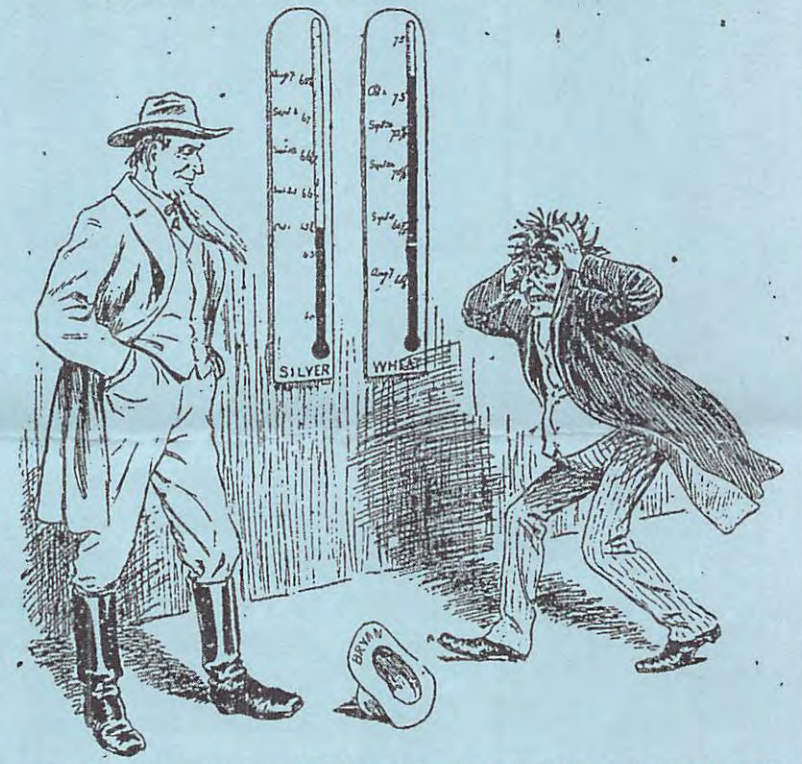
He bows his head to the laden board,
And the guests they are silent all,
"Thanksgiving, Lord, for the sun and rain,
And the fruit on the orchard wall.
For the silver wheat, and the golden corn,
And the crown of a peaceful life---
The greatest blessing that Thou canst give---
A true and a loving wife!"

This white-haired lover he bends to kiss
Her hand in its frill of lace,
And the faded rose on her wrinkled cheek,
With a proud and a courtly grace;
And the snowflakes click on the windowpane,
And the rafters ring above,
And the angels sing at the gates of Goad
The words of the farmer's love.

Minnie Irving, in N.Y. Independent
Source: Courier Democrat, Nov. 20, 1896

As I sit in the basement working on this issue of the newsletter, the doorbell rings. With two days until the election, it's propaganda time. Looking back, 100 years ago was also an election year. From a quick trip to old newsprint, it appeared that the precious metal silver was a controversial topic of the day. But who was the fusion party?

LIARS MAY FIGURE, BUT FIGURES WON'T LIE.



Bryan tells the farmers that the price of wheat keeps pace with the price of silver; that the gold standard forced down the price of wheat, and that wheat could not rise till silver rose; but the cold facts are that silver has been sinking and wheat rising.

New York Press.

Official Vote of Nemaha County, Nov. 3, 1896

For President.

William J. Bryan (fusion)	2479
William McKinley (rep)	2558
William J. Bryan (middle-road pop)	27
John M. Palmer (nat dem)	11
Joshua Levering (prohib)	27
Chas. E. Bently (national)	3

Source: Democrat, November 13, 1896

KANSAS

STATE

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

◆

6425 S.W. 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas
66615-1099
PHONE#(913)272-8681
FAX#(913)272-8682
TTY#(913)272-8683

◆

KANSAS HISTORY CENTER

Administration
Center for Historical Research
Cultural Resources
Education / Outreach
Historic Sites
Kansas Museum of History
Library & Archives

HISTORIC SITES

Adair Cabin
Constitution Hall
Cottonwood Ranch
First Territorial Capitol
Fort Hays
Goodnow House
Grinter Place
Hollenberg Station
Kaw Mission
Marais des Cygnes Massacre
Mine Creek Battlefield
Native American Heritage Museum
Pawnee Indian Village
Pawnee Rock
Shawnee Mission

CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
KANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
913-272-8681, ex. 240

May 29, 1996

Ms. Dorothy Pearl Murphy
Nemaha County Historical Society
113 N. 6th Street
Seneca, Kansas 66538

RE: NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION OF NEMAHA COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE

Dear Dorothy:

Thank you for the nomination draft for the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. The draft looks excellent! Our review process for nominations has been expanded to include more people. This change may slow down the review of the nomination. However, the review team will work together to evaluate the nomination draft as quickly as they can. When the team feels that the draft is complete, the property will be scheduled for the very next possible review board meeting. I will write you with the team comments following our first meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Martha Hagedorn Krass

Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

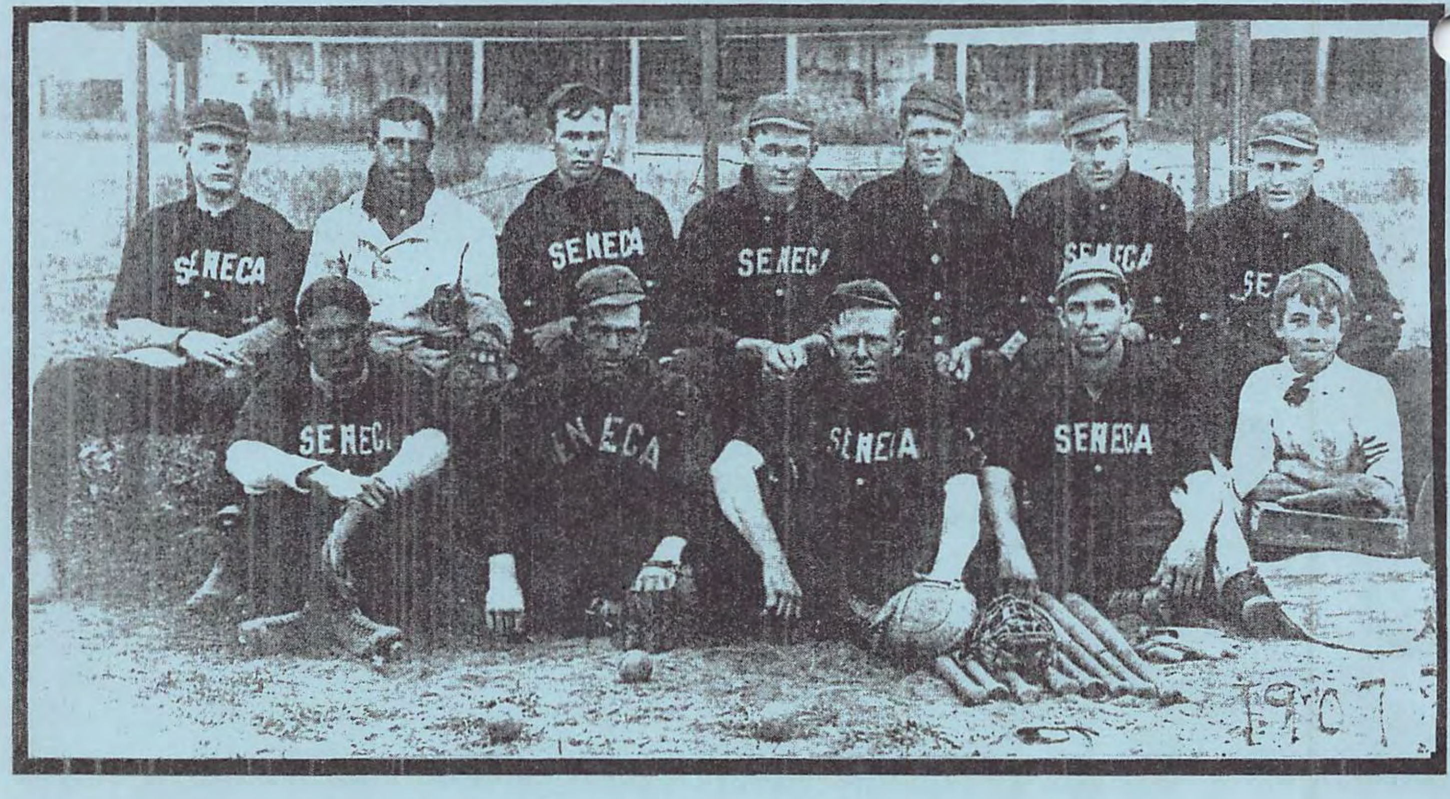
NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Financial Report

Checking Account 00309478

As of June 30, 1996

Balance on Hand, June 30, 1995		$ 1,232.80
RECEIPTS		
Memberships	$ 1,085.00	
Donations (money box)	164.90	
Donation (for cedar trees)	50.00	
Bancroft Preservation Association	65.00	
Lunch Stand (Christmas in July)	419.00	
Nemaha County budgeted funds	1,500.00	
Dinner meeting meals	873.50	
Donations	70.50	
Memorials (Agnes Rethman, Dorothy Thornburg)	45.00	
United Charities	35.00	
Donations (open house)	655.00	
Harry Burger - final donation for annex ..	34,470.00	
Transfer from money market	500.00	
Open House receipts	2,141.07	
Donations - Roof Repair	2,462.38	
Receipts (Yunghans Sale)	764.60	
SUB-TOTAL	$45,301.05	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		$ 46,533.85
EXPENDITURES		
Telephone - SWBT and AT&T	$ 326.21	
Mowing, Snow removal	228.00	
KPL	525.12	
Lunch Stand (Christmas in July)	75.76	
Postage & Supplies	578.66	
Lunch stand (Open House)	718.54	
Insurance	1,122.97	
Advertising	239.00	
Dinner meeting meals	810.40	
Genealogical Society - reimbursement for dues	60.00	
Suther Building Co. -final payment for annex	35,791.91	
Lunch Stand (Yunghans sale)	301.70	
Kansas Department of State	20.00	
Subscription	18.00	
Guttering	1,367.42	
Roof repair	24.84	
Koelzer Lumber Co. - gravel	32.50	
Sign and plaque	64.38	
Miscellaneous	26.50	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 42,331.91
Balance on Hand, June 30, 1996		$ 4,201.94



Can you help identify the members of this ball team from about the year 1907?

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Number 61

FEBRUARY 1998

Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

PRESIDENT: Lillian Engelken (99) 336-3160
VICE PRESIDENT: Eugene Visser (98) 868-2398
SECRETARY: Marcia Philbrick (98) 336-3645
TREASURER: Carol Steinlage (00)
Alan Ward (00) 857-3760
Francis Davis (00) 866-5288
Naomi Turner (00) 336-2720
Pauline Esslinger (98) 336-3819
John Harter (99) 336-3925
Roland Cordon (98) 868-2736
Marguerite Blaylock (99) 336-2524
Joyce Olberding (99) 336-3334

BOARD MINUTES

from Marcia Philbrick

The meeting of the Nemaha County Board of Directors was opened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17 with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Lillian Engelken, president; Gene Visser, Vice-president; Carol Steinlage, Treasurer; Marcia Philbrick, secretary; Alan Ward, John Harter, Roland Cordon, and Naomi Turner.

Carol Steinlage reported a balance of $4,334.07 at the end of January. The open house netted $723.73 in profit and a food sale at an auction netted $219.21 in profit.

Lillian announced that Harry Burger has donated another $20,000 to the Harry M. Burger trust fund. Interest payments from the original trust included $950 in June and $950 in December of 1997. An interest check dated February 1998 for $900 has been received from the new account. This money is to be utilized to staff the museum or for the upkeep of the building and collection. John Harter moved to put Harry Burger's November 1997 donation of $20,000 in Chapman Securities. Gene Visser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A short discussion followed about how to ensure that out of town visitors can view the museum on days when it is closed. The use of contact names and phone numbers will continue as in the past. If the museum is not open, visitors should contact Joyce Olberding, or Dorothy Pearl Murphy to arrange for the museum to be opened.

The changes in the bylaws were then discussed. These changes were published in the last issue of the newsletter. Carol Steinlage moved to accept and to present these bylaw changes to the membership at the March dinner meeting. Alan Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lillian discussed the crack in the East wall of the Burger addition. Suther Building Company will be working to repair the crack. It may be necessary to put expansion joints in the brick facing on the outside of the wall.

Lillian announced that the historical society was named a beneficiary in the will of Reva Lash Allen and received a bequest of $200.

Anita Heiman is checking into the possibility of declaring a Harry Burger day countywide.

The Historical Society will be hosting a soup luncheon on Thursday March 12 from 11:00

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 64

MAY-JUNE 1999

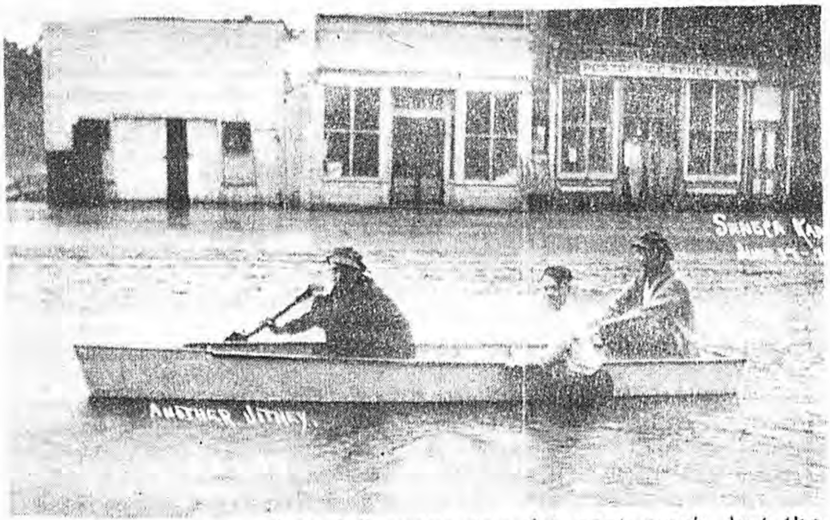
PRESIDENT: Alan Ward 857-3760 (00)
VICEPRESIDENT: Lillian Engelken 336-3160 (99)
Secretary: Ardella Becker 868-3545 (01)
TREASURER: Carol Steinlage 857-3738(00)
Eugene Visser 868-2398 (01)
Francis Davis 866-5288 (00)
John Harter 336-3925 (99)
Caryl Schell 868-2861 (01)
Naomi Turner 336-2720 (00)
Marguerite Blaylock 336-2524 (99)
Joyce Olberding 336-3334 (99)
Barbara Chilson 336-6221 (01)

Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

VOLUNTEERS

YOU DID GREAT LAST YEAR!
Now we need you for this summer to assist the hostess during museum hours.

We had a great group last summer and if you would like to come again two or three times a month, even if you are a 'first-timer', call Dorothy Pearl Murphy or Lillian Engelken.



Rain has seemed to fall every day the past week, but the runoff has been nowhere near the level shown in this photo of Seneca's Main Street eighty years ago, on June 17, 1915, when a boat was the only way to travel.

Reprint from a 1995 Seneca Courier-Tribune.. It's been a WET Spring, AGAIN!!!

The Board of the Nemaha County Historical Society met Tuesday, 11 May, 1999 at the museum in Seneca. Attending were: Frances Davis, Gene Visser, Carole Steinlage, Lillian Engelken, Marguerite Blaylock, Barbara Chilson, Ardella Becker and Joyce Olberding.

In the absence of the president, Lillian opened the meeting. Ardella read the minutes and Carole gave the treasurer's report. She reported on the fund raisers the Society has had, the Soup Lunch, and the lunch stands at Bergman's sale and the Rochel sale. With the great support of all our volunteers, we realized a tidy profit.

Frances gave a report on the Bancroft Depot Museum. If you haven't visited this museum, you should, the Bancroft members have put a lot of work into making the depot a great little museum in their community.

The corner display area is finished and Mr Burger's family heirlooms are now on display there. Mr Burger has expressed his appreciation for all the museum has done to care for his family heirlooms in the Harry C.M. Burger Annex. The Society also wishes to express their appreciation for Harry's continued interest and support of the museum.

The museum is considering another air conditioner to help keep the heat down upstairs. It was noted there are some more windows in need of repair. If you would like to help with either of these projects, contributions would be welcome.

The re-enactment wagon train on the St Joseph-California trail came thru Nemaha County the end of April. They camped one night at Albany, then went northwest, past Bern and stopped north of Seneca one night. The Board members made about 40 small bags with the picture of the museum on the outside, and filled them with trail mix. Then Lillian and Clarence Engelken went out to the wagon train encampment on the Rottinghaus farm (north of Seneca) to visit, take pictures and passed out the welcome bags as a memento of their stop at Seneca.

The Annual Spring dinner meeting will be at Valentino's 13 June 1999 at 6:30pm. New board members will be elected. A program is also planned. Reservations need to be made by 11 June, call Lillian, 336-3160 or any other board member The reorganization meeting will be Tuesday 15 June.

REMINDER

The 1999-2000 dues will be due, June 30, 1999. Please send your dues to **Dorothy Pearl Murphy**, Membership Chairman, address on the back of the news-letter.

Reprinted from the Courier Tribune, 17 April 1961: Jay Adrience, LETTERS FROM THE EARLY DAY:

The Courier is going to use as a centennial year feature, some letters of the early day, most of them written by Mary Sly, who was a great-grandmother of the editor.

Mary Sly and her husband, John, came to Nemaha county as early as 1857 and settled north and I think a little west of where Seneca is now located, near Turkey Creek. We are working on establishing more definitely where the farm is.

The "Slys" first postoffice was Richmond, now faded away, which was some three miles north of Seneca.

Mary Sly's maiden name was Hammond. She had a sister, Elizabeth who married a Charles Skinner, and she wrote evidently many letters to this sister and brother-in-law back east. At least, I came into possession, in roundabout fashion, to a shoe box of family letters of which many, many, are written by Mary Sly.

Her letters as we said, were written to Elizabeth and Charles Skinner, who then lived in New York State. Now it was into this family that Rose Harsh Skinner, now deceased, of Seneca married, her late husband being Jim Skinner. Thus, the family letters came into her possession, and about three years ago, I believe it was, while we were neighbors, Rose came over bringing me the old letters. While I had a personal curiosity and interest in them, I think other folks may find these of interest, because they are from this county, and begin before Kansas was a state.

This was when Nemaha county was being settled, and the feeling that this would be a great land when the prairie's were broken, runs through the early letters. And we find too, that about all the folks as they settled here were ill for a time with the ague--in spite of which they wanted others to come to Kansas.

The letters give us some of the 'human history' of the times, what folks wee thinking and doing in the early day.

Sometimes the figures of speech are different than we use today. In this first letter, while Mary Sly tells later that the journey from the east took five weeks, we find she was three months and over on the 'route to Boston'. Perhaps some of the older folks of the country have heard that expression before.

Here is our first letter:

November 22, 1857
Sabbath evening

Dear and kind Brother & Sister--

The day is past and I so tired I hardly can direct my pen, but when will I get any more time or feel any more able to write? You know Lib, I am not one of the most patient creatures in the world and I do think I have a few trials of what little I have.

You asked me to write more particularly concerning our journey. I was brief at that time on purpose, and, now shall be obliged to be, for want of time. However you shall have a short history of myself, and if it goes to Washington through miscarriage so be it. Well then I did not dream I had 'started to Boston' when we made calculations on coming to Kansas or we should not have come this year, but I was three months and over on the route and of course nothing was enjoyed by me. I felt sometimes as if I was going to my long home. Cornelia and Philo were both very sick part of the time. We camped in our wagons mostly rain or shine, but had some good company the last three weeks. Were over five weeks coming. I have now to add that my lot was cast in a goodly place and among good Christian people, and although I have suffered for the want of help to do my work the neighbors have done all in their power.

We have all every one had the ague and fever and all down at once but Augustus, he waited till John was getting so that he could make out to milk if the (cow) came up of her own accord. My ague came on every other day about 6 o'clock and sometimes I could help about the dinner and again not. I had the fever enough to burn me up almost. Had it broke with calomel and quinine firstly but came down with it twice later and then employed a botanical Physician, who lives four miles from us in Nebraska, he gave 16 pills to be taken in 8 hours and I have not had but one shake since and that was the next day after my little Catharine Elizabeth was born. A good old lady was obliged to officiate as MD, as the doctor had just gone, thinking I could wait until in the night. (I was glad he lift though). We could not get but two women and neither of them has a child in the world or ever had, others soon came but too late. I was going to say, I named her Catharine after the old Lady. She says it must have a fine dress. It was born on Charles Hammond's birthday the 2nd of November and is three weeks old tomorrow. Weighs about 5 lbs I guess. I paid a girl 12 years old...three dollars for 10 days work. Since then have done what has been done. I get very tired every day and am afraid of bringing back the ague. We are all getting better, though we have to be very careful.

Now you will say I am not going to Kansas to have the ague, almost all eastern people have it, for a little while but Lib, though I was so discouraged as to make some threats at one time I am not sorry now we are here. We have left that claim that we were on when I wrote you, for one a good deal better as it has timber enough. And now Charles, there is joining ours on the east as handsome a prairie claim as ever you would wish to see and timber to be claimed on the west of ours which will be one mile from the prairie. Now whether you believe it or not this is an extra chance. John has 100 acres which is just as nice and better land than Doolittle flats, the rest or 60 acres timber on Turkey Creek. If you are coming the sooner the better for the country is filling fast and the first settlers have altogether the best chance. No man can hold but 160 acres and they have to be 21.

We do most certainly want you to come, you can do first rate and if you have the ague a few weeks we are here and may then be able to lend a helping hand.

Philo has had two bad fits and been very dangerously sick, is better now but looks as if he had the dropsy. To-day he has had the ear ache and a bad cold and I am now sitting up to wait upon him as I have given him oil. He is a fine looking boy if I do say it...

Now Lib, you must not wait for me at all but do write. I want to hear from all the old neighbors. Tell Emily I was very glad to get a letter from her, and will be more pleased to see her here. One of these days I will try to answer it. Tell I am in no danger of blowing away. I have the luck to keep pretty heavy most of the time. Much obliged for the seeds I tell you. We have not had any snow until last night. All off today. John has not been able to husk his six acres of corn be bought on his claim yet. I think we shall not have a very hard winter but may. Goodby, Charles and Lib, I want to write more but cannot.

Your Sister in bonds of love--

Mary Sly

PAGE SIX
THE COURIER-TRIBUNE
Mon., March 13, 1978

Letter to the Editor

April Snow 1920

Yes Mrs. Becker I remember that big April snow Saturday morning I was to help with the county diploma examinations at Kelly in the old one room public school house. I had taught at the Head School that winter and stayed at my sister's Altha and Roy Sheely. Saturday morning Roy took me to Kelly in their Ford car. It was a dark gloomy day with enough rain to make the roads slick. About 10 o'clock it began to snow and blow. By 4 o'clock the exams were over and Roy came to take me home. It was still snowing and blowing. We got pass the corner east of Albert Wessel's, but ran into deep drifts so Roy went into the pasture and headed for Schniders home where Cletus Haverkamp lives now. We went as far as we could with the car and waded through the drifts to the house. Roy and the Schneider boys got a team of horses and got the car in the yard. I went to the house to get warm. Mrs. Schneider and daughter, Annie (Mrs. Ernest Thieme) had just finished scrubbing and cleaning their floor and were baking some delicious looking pies and preparing other goodies for their Easter dinner. I tried to brush the snow from my clothes and stood by the stove to get warm. I didn't know that knit petticoat I was wearing had gathered up snow like a sponge, but as I stood by the stove the snow began to melt. Drip, drip, drip! all over that clean linoleum floor. It seemed like hours before Roy stuck his head in the door and said Harold Schneider had a team hitched to the wagon and was ready to take us home. Emil and Dorothy Huerter had started to go to Kelly in their dad's car and had got as far as Walter Schneider's home about a half mile north of his dads. So Harold picked them up and drove through the fields where roads were drifted to get us to Sheeleys. By that time it was getting late and still snowing and blowing. We were afraid to let Harold start back so he and Dorothy stayed all night at Roy's. Emil walked home through the timber. Agatha (Mrs. Clem Heinen) Philip, Hubert and Edwin Huerter who had been taking the exams stayed in the Bert Smiri and Frances Sheely homes until Monday when Emil and Lewis Huerter walked through the fields to Kelly and helped the children home. After the snow melted it was so muddy Emil and Roy didn't get the cars home for two weeks. Now if the snow plow don't get your road open in a day or two that's terrible. And now when the snow melts you have gravel and rock roads, not so much mud.

Valeria Johnstone
(now Mrs. Emil Huerter)
Goff, Kansas

Grandma Remembers

As far back in childhood as memory may go, one household vessel greets me that wasn't meant for show. Beneath the bed 'twas anchored where only few could see, but served the entire family with equal privacy.

Some called the critter 'Peggy' and some the 'thunder mug' and others called it 'badger,' and a few just called it 'Jug'. To bring it in at evening was bad enough no doubt, but heaven help the person who had to tote it out. Our big one was enormous and would accomodate a watermelon party composed of six or eight. When nights were dark and rainy, it was a useful urn; on icy winter mornings, the cold rim seemed to burn.

At times when things were rushing, and business extra good, each took his turn at waiting or did the best he could. Sometimes when in a hurry, to our disgust and shame, we fumbled in the darkness and slightly missed our aim.

The special one for company was decorated well, but just the same it rendered the same familiar smell.

Today this modernism relieves me a lot, and only in memory's vision do I see that old familiar "Pot".

Reprint from Centralin
'Journal Leader' courtsey of
Mary Steinlage

REMEMBER
JUNE
DUES
30

March 1961, 80 years ago (1881)
The Sabetha Congregational church bought a 900 pound bell,
claimed to be the largest and most expensive in town.

1909 story still interesting now

([illegible]itor's Note: The following is reprinted from the November 29, 1909 edition of the Seneca Tribune. It was called to our attention by a genealogist from Maryland who is tracing the family tree of the Rising family.)

When Ponies Carried Mail

Death of a Pony Express Rider Recalls Old Days in Seneca When Letter Carrying Was a Risk.

(From the Seneca Tribune, Monday, November 29, 1909)

In the alley south of The Tribune offices in sight of the working force in our mechanical department every week-day morning at 8 o'clock five carriers of the rural route mails, out of Seneca load their "cases" and start for the delivery of letters, papers and parcels to every home in this district of Nemaha county.

Their equipment for this service is wagon and automobile; and the whole territory is covered and the return trip made for the shortest route before noon and the longest route is completed before supper time.

The recent death and burial at Wetm[illegible], of Don C. Rising, recalled another day in Seneca, when mail-carrying was done differently. The pony express was organized and put in operation and made its first trip in April, 1860, continuing across the continent twice a week between the Missouri river and Sacramento, California, for a year and a half; the run was made in eight to ten days. Later in July, 1861, a daily overland mail was put on, and the following November the fleet pony was followed by the Pacific telegraph.

Seneca was on the pony express route, and John E. Smith, still living here, was postmaster and also kept a hotel and a transfer stable for the horses. Marysville was on the outskirts of civilization in 1860, and Marysville and Seneca were the only two towns of importance on the route between St. Joesph and the Rocky Mountains.

William Russell, then a leading citizen of Leavenworth, was promoter of the pony express. When he had decided to put in operation this novel mail serv[illegible] he bought in Salt Lake, California, Iowa and Missouri, 200 ponies, paying as high as $200 a head for especially good ones. The best were fleet American horses, and some small Mexican animals very fleet and particularly safe for mountain travel were used.

Next he secured a sufficient number of young men for the hazardous task, among them being the late Mr. Rising of Wetmore then seventeen years old. There were eighty altogether in this service--forty riding each way continuously.

The animals bought for the pony enterprise were distributed at intervals along the route of nine to fifteen miles. Each rider was supposed to ride three animals in succession, traversing three "stages" and to go at least 33⅓ miles.

The riders averaged 135 pounds in weight and were equipped with saddle, bridle and leather pouch, all weighing about nineteen pounds.

When all plans were completed, advertisements were placed in New York and St. Louis papers announcing that Tuesday, April 3, 1860, "the first courier of the pony express will leave the Missouri river at 5 o'clock p.m. carrying a letter mail only, to be delivered in San Francisco ten days from departure." The route from St. Joseph after crossing the Missouri river was a little south of west to Kennekuk in Atchison County forty-four miles out; then it diverged a little northwesterly across the Kickapoo Indian reservation via Granada, Log Chain, Seneca, Ash Point, Guitard's, Marysville and up the Little Blue Valley to Rock Creek and on over rolling prairies and the sand hills of the Platte to Fort Kearney, and through Denver and Salt Lake to California.

The run into Seneca was over the Pike's Peak trail and the well-worn route is still plainly visible over the hills southeast of town. There was not to exceed two minutes time allowed at any station for a change of pony. The quickest trip made was in March, 1861, when President Lincoln's inaugural address was carried from St. Joseph to Sacramento, 1,980 miles, in seven days and seventeen hours.

The weight of all letters carried was limited to twenty pounds; the first rate was $5 for each half-ounce. Afterwards the Post office department reduced the rate by pony express to $1 per half-ounce, and nowadays do the same service for two cents an ounce.

The pay of pony express riders was fixed at from $50 to $150 a month and board--this high amount being paid William F. Cody ("Buffalo Bill") and a few others, whose ride was through regions infested by the savage Cheyenne and Comanche Indians.

The first trips of the pony express out and into St. Joseph were exciting occasions and drew a great crowd. Mr. Smith went into St. Joseph to witness the event. George W. Williams and W.H. Smith, nephew and son of Mr. Smith, were at home in Seneca on arrival of the first pony rider out of St. Joseph.

Next trip, Johnnie Frey, a Missouri youth of twenty, made the advertised time. He was given credit for the record run and his name lives in all histories of the pony express.

The ride to Seneca, eighty miles, was made in an average of 12½ miles an hour.

William Boulton, sheriff of Nemaha county the two terms of 1863-5, was another rider of the pony express. Melville Baughn, was also one of the St. Joseph-Seneca riders. Afterward he became a horse thief and generally bad character. In attempting his arrest in November, 1866, for stealing horses in Elwood, Doniphan County, he fatally shot Jesse S. Dennis at the crossing of Muddy creek on the Kapioma road. Baughn escaped.

A reward of $1,000 was offered for his capture; he was arrested and escaped from our jail in February, 1867, after being threatened by a mob, and not until he had committed other crimes, been arrested and again escaped, was shot at and wounded, was he finally secured and lodged in the Seneca jail, June 27, 1868. He was then tried for the murder of Dennis by Judge R. St. Clair Guthrie, August 2-6, in the district court for Nemaha County and found guilty and was sentenced to be hung the 18th. of September following.

Mr. Smith thinks there are only three of the pony riders now living--Jack Keetley, William F. Cody and Charles Cliff.

Reprint from Courier-Tribune

99

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

00

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ________ Phone: (___) _____ - _______

_____ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person

_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

_____Renewal

_____New

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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FEBRUARY 1999

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Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

The Nemaha County Historical Society is having a SOUP LUNCH, **March 18, 1999** in the Annex at the museum in Seneca.

They will serve a choice of ham/bean soup or vegetable beef soup, with dessert and drinks.

The Nemaha County Historical Society had the lunch stand at the Bergman sale, February 21st at the Community Building, Seneca.

Thank You to everyone who donated pies and helped that day.

In 1882, part of a mastodon was plowed out on B. F. Morgan's farm, where Mr Harris once lived on Harris Creek.

1890

Diggers of a cesspool at the Holtel Gilford uncovered part of the skeleton of a MASTODON. The large part of the skeleton was left in the ground because its removal would have required another excavation.

In 1894, S.D. Harlow, grandfather of movie star, Jean Harlow, moved to St Joseph. He had been a conductor on the Northwestern R R.

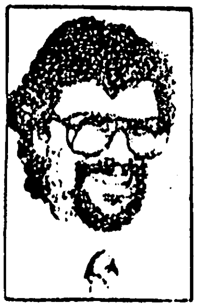
A city ordinance passed in Seneca prior to 1889: " NO person shall appear on any street, alley, public place open to public view, in any state of nudity, nor in a dress not belonging to his or her sex".

4 Star-Herald, Sunday, February 22, 1987

This is American History Month and I thought you would enjoy this 'take off' on James Madison writing the constitution!

EDITORIAL & OPINION

The editor's corner



If James Madison had to do it again, could he?

KEN CAMPBELL
Managing Editor

If James Madison had to do it again today, I wonder if he would have done such a good job at writing the U.S. Constitution. Men today are expected to help more around the house, for one thing, and there's a lot less free time for such things as Constitution-writing

If he were living today, he'd have to create his historically significant documents in his spare time after work. And his wife, Dolly, probably would hold a job herself. That means Jim watches the kids while Dolly's at work.

I can easily imagine the future fourth president at the kitchen table with a pile of freshly sharpened quills, the powder from his curled wig drifting down on the parchment he's poring over, while his children play near the big open fireplace. His thoughts probably would go something like this:

Hmmm, let's see. I've already written Articles I through VII. Better just quit there, VII's a lucky number. If those other guys want a Bill of Rights, they'll just have to tack them on the end after I'm done ...

Hey, kids, can you keep the noise down? What's that? Yes, I can see you spilled your milk, but go find a mop. Don't ever use the cat again...

Now where was I? OK, the boilerplate is out of the way. Now what this Constitution needs is some jazzing up at the beginning if we're ever going to get any publicity. Maybe I'll call Ben Franklin — no, he was going to take his family kite-flying today. Too bad; he's always good for a snappy lead.

What's that, honey? No, you can't help Daddy write. No, Daddy's Constitution doesn't have any pictures. No, no, no, don't draw on Daddy's parchment. He needs it to start a new nation, OK? Now be a good boy and help your sister dry off the cat.

Whew! Now back to the Preamble. Hmmm. It's got to be a real grabber, something folks will remember for a few years. "When in the course of human events ..." No, we used that one already. "One small step for man, one giant step ..." Hmmm. "Fourscore and seven years ago ..." I'm just not getting it.

What, honey? Who am I writing it for? Why, it's for all of the people in the country. Hey, that's it!

"We the People of the United States ..." So far, so good. Now what? "... in order to form a more perfect Union ..."

Junior! How can I form a more perfect union with you kids squabbling in the background? Give that toy back to your sister this minute! She had it first. C'mon, now. Now go to your room if you can't play fair!

Say, there's another good one. "... establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility ..."

Sure could use a little domestic tranquility around here. Now, what next? A chicken in every pot? A new deal? A great leap forward?

Hey, watch it! You almost hit me with that ball! For crying out loud, can't you kids see I'm trying to write a historically significant document? You know I can't defend myself when you all gang up on me that way — hey, let's add that one.

"... provide for the common defense ..."

Well, Dolly, home at last? If we didn need two incomes I'd never have let you take that steno job at General Washington's. And how is the general's welfare? Wait a minute, let me write that down ...

"... to promote the general welfare ..."

Thank goodness you're home, Dolly. I've been cooped up in here with the kids all day and I need a little freedom — and why not grant it to everybody, as long as I'm at it? "...and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Thanks, kids. I couldn't have done it without you — but I would have enjoyed trying!

January 12, 1920: Paving was being laid on Main Street

Farmers were wondering where they would hitch their teams, since the hitch racks were removed as the streets were being paved.....

Telephone poles were removed from Main Street.

The Nemaha County Historical Society board met February 24, 1999 at the museum annex in Seneca. Attending were Alan Ward, Lillian Engelken, Marguerite Blaylock, Carol Steinlage, Ardella Becker, Joyce Olberding, Gene Visser and Pauline Esslinger.

Alan called the meeting to order by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ardella read the minutes of the last board meeting, they were approved. Carol gave the treasurer's report. She noted several memorials have been given to the society. Mr & Mrs Walter Dowd in memory of Mary Boeding, Walt Rottinghaus in memory of Emma Rottinghaus, Mary Ann Buchanan and Robert Mueller in memory of Christine Burger Childers.

In the northeast corner of the annex is a display of Harry Burger's parents clothing and other family items. It was voted to enclose this area into a corner room to keep out the dust etc. The glass walls will be installed when the contractor is available.

The Society had the lunch stand at the Bergman sale in the Community Building February 21, Joyce reported we had a nice profit. We thank Steve for giving us this opportunity to raise money for the museum.

There was a discussion about having a 'memory plaque' made to list memorials and their donors. Alan enlisted a committee to inquire about this project.

The dinner meetings were discussed. A motion was made and approved to have 2 dinner meetings, one-the 2nd Sunday of September and two-the 2nd Sunday of June, and keeping the 4 board meetings as is. The Pioneer Press will be sent after the board meetings, to keep members up-to-date on events, projects and happenings at the museum.

There will be no dinner meeting in March. The next dinner meeting will be in September. We will have Open House in October.

The Society will have a Soup Lunch on March 18. They will serve a choice of ham/bean soup, or vegetable beef soup, with dessert and drinks.

The next board meeting will be May 11 at the museum in Seneca.

In 1895, A contract for Seneca waterworks plant was awarded to James T. Broughal of KC for $29,000.00.
In 1925 Seneca installed water meters.

1924 Courier: Charles G. Scrafford was mayor of the city and an organizer of the Universalist Church. The Old Stone Church cost $9,000.00. As one of the largest contributors, he gave $1250.00.

Reprinted from the SABETHA HERALD

A HERALD

35¢

VEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1992 TWELVE PAGES

Early Sabetha doctor was woman

By Heather A. Resz
The Sabetha Herald

Editors note: This is one in a series of articles honoring the contributions pioneer women made to northeast Kansas and America.

The articles will run in conjunction with the Albany Threshing Bee and Oxen Days, which follow the theme "Pioneer Women."

Pioneer

One in a series

Women

"Her life of service as a physician when good roads were unknown, travel was by horse and buggy and few homes prepared to supply even the rudiments of necessities of a sick room reads like a thrilling biography," The Sabetha Herald, March 16, 1938.

Dr. Emily Brooke Slosson followed in the footsteps of her father, a medical doctor in Sabetha in 1872.

Slosson, the only child of John and Eura Brooke, despite the objections of her father, received her medical degree and practiced in Sabetha for more than 60 years.

Slosson received her medical degree from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania on March 11, 1875.

May Wines knew Slosson when she practiced medicine in Sabetha.

"She always wanted to be a doctor but her father didn't want her to," Wines said. "He said it was too hard of a job for a woman."

In those days, Wines said, when a doctor made a house call she stayed until the patient was out of danger, she said.

"When Mrs. Slosson would go to care for someone she would sometimes be gone up to a week," Wines said.

Because Slosson was accustomed to making calls at all hours, she would often be on the streets late at night, she said.

If Slosson was out and saw a light on in a back room or somewhere it normally would not be, she would go in to see what was wrong, Wines said.

Slosson, who was active in the Christian Women's Temperance Union, would break up late-night drinking parties when she found them, she said.

"She was very outspoken," Wines said. "You never had to guess where she stood on anything."

In 1875 the number of women doctors to men doctors was proportionally higher than in the period following 1900, said Sue Zschoche, history professor at Kansas State University.

Dr. Emily Slosson

"Although proportionally the number of women doctors was higher than at other times, women doctors were still rare," Zschoche said.

"What history books forget to tell us is that even though numbers were low, women were pioneering the field of medicine right alongside the men," Zschoche said.

In 1875 less than 5 percent of all medical doctors were female, she said. Later, when medical licensing began, the number of women doctors declined sharply.

Despite these odds, Slosson followed in her fathers footstep serving the Sabetha community as a medical doctor and outstanding citizen for more than 60 years.

In 1905 the State Bank of Bancroft was robbed. The burglers escaped on a KCNW handcar....

I found this article in the Courier-Tribune, April 3, 1961, it was written by Mrs Emil Huerter. I hope you will enjoy this reprint!

Their School Was a Dugout

"Grandma's" Interesting Experiences in Gove County

In this centennial year when we read about covered wagons dugouts, and sodhouses, I'm wondering if anyone else in the county taught school in a dugout. Believe it or not in 1917 I taught school in a dugout in Gove county, Kansas. Here's how it happened. I was hired to teach in a little country school about four miles south of Campus, a little town about midway between Granell and Oakley.

School was to open on Monday, but on Thursday night the school house burned down. Perhaps the last person to see the old school house was a young schoolmaster as he passed it on his way home about midnight. It was a bright moonlight night but storm clouds were rolling in from the northwest. As he passed the school house, so lonesome and bare in the moonlight, he thought that on Monday morning the door would be open and the school bell would ring and there would be school again in the little old school house on the hill. But when morning came after the storm with its thunder, lightning and rain, all that was left was a smouldering pile of ashes.

Something had to be done at once. Some thought we should have school in a private home until a new school house could be built, or there was a dugout back in the prairie a short distance from the school yard which could be used. They decided to have school in the dugout. So desks were borrowed from a neighboring district and the dugout was made ready for school. The dugout was about half way down the side of a steep hill or bluff. The roof was even with the prairie above and would not be noticed except for the chimney sticking out of the ground and the path leading down to the door.

It was about 12 x 14 feet I suppose, with a door facing the southeast, a window on each side of the door....walls were of cement. The seats were placed on both sides of the room with the back to the windows, leaving an aisle from the door to my desk at the front of the room. We also had a blackboard that could be rolled up and down, a chair, a sandbox and a stove. Outside there was also a path leading down to a dry sandy creek below. On both sides of this path were rattlesnake holes. In fact the rocky bluff seemed to be a favorite place for their holes.

Monday morning not only the six children in the district came but four from another district whose school didn't start until the next week. This made a full house but after the first week the four went to their own school, so we had plenty of room.

One warm day soon after school started we had an unwelcome visitor. The door was open and everything was quiet. Too quiet. A big rattlesnake came crawling up the aisle almost half way into the room. A broom was handy and after sweeping him out the door he was finished off with a hoe which had been provided for just such an occasion. Another time as the boys were running up the path two rattlers crossed the path and one boy stepped over a snake as it slithered into its hole. As I was ready to go home one evening, I killed two of the pests out by the car. Of course I kept the rattles for proof.

The county Superintendent came to visit us one day and thought it would be very nice when we would be in the new school house. One morning after a snow storm the dugout was almost buried in snow. Just the top of the windows and door could be seen. I scooped away enough snow so we could get in and out and the next day took a picture. After almost four months in the dugout the new school house was finished. Just in time for our Christmas

(continued on the other side)

tree and program.

I wonder now if it wasn't that winter that my brothers Harry and John Johnstone started losing their hair and Rella, Harry's wife, started getting grey. You see, I stayed with them that winter and drove the five miles to school. When the weather was nice I drove a Model T Ford, but when it was bad Old Jack was hitched to the top buggy and away we went. Jack wasn't old. He was a big bay mule and was also used to ride while driving cattle. Faithful Old Jack has long ago gone to mule heaven. But a more willing servant would be hard to find. One Friday after we were in the new building I swept and dusted as everything should be spic and span in a new building, but Monday morning there was about four inches of dirt all over the desk and floor and everything. How so much loose dirt could sift into a new school I'll never know. But I used the coal shovel to scoop it out. One day a storm came up and the car wouldn't start so I stayed in the school house all night. Retta became worried and phoned a neighbor who walked the half mile in the blizzard to see if I was O. K. Another time when it turned cold John skinned (that was his expression) down on old Jack to help me crank the car. But he couldn't start it either, so I stayed again in the old school house and he started home on old Jack. By that time it was snowing and blowing hard. When John or I didn't come home Harry started out on foot to see what was wrong. He met John on the road so Jack had a double load. Before long it got so dark and the boys didn't know which way they should go. John thought they should go one way and Harry thought they should go the other. So they let Jack go where he pleased and he took them safely home.

One morning it was below zero and a blizzard raging I put on all the warm clothes I could and with warm lap robes in the buggy Jack and I started for school. We made it O. K. but were alone all day. One man had hitched his team to the wagon and started out with his three grandchildren who were staying there that winter. He stopped and picked up the two neighbors children but when he got to the foot of the hill below the school house, he couldn't find the bridge so had to turn back and go home. By four o'clock the snow had ended so Jack and I started for home.

Old Jack was used many times during the blizzards to help snowbound travelers to shelter. No drifts were too deep, no snow too blinding, faithful old Jack always found the way.

That was the winter when the two big army balloons got away from their base in Nebraska and came sailing over Kansas. They drifted over our way during the noon hour. It was quite a thrill to see them floating high to the northwest. As they came closer to the ground the long cables tore up fences and damaged buildings. Folks thought it was the Germans flying over until the newspapers came out next day. In those days we called the Ford cars tin Lizzies. When they were hard to start we reached under the dash and turned more gas on the carburetor, then when it started we turned it off again. That's what happened one evening after school only I forgot to turn it off until it was about halfway down the hill. When I reached down to turn it off my glove got caught on something and when I looked up again Lizzie was headed for the grader ditch. I gave the steering wheel a quick turn and over she went on her side. I turned off the switch and crawled out the window and started up the road for help. I didn't have far to go before I met a couple of neighbors who saw me leave the school house a little too fast and heard the crash. We soon had the car on its wheels and except for a broken windshield, it was as good as ever. I drove rather slow the rest of the way home. Well kids that's the story. Time for bed....

ORPHAN TRAIN CHILDREN ADOPTED BY SENECA PEOPLE

arrival September 1883

Rosengarten, Theo
Clawson, G.W.
McKay, Dr. D.B.
Magill, D.R.
Myers, Joseph
Jones, H.R.
Evans, L.H.
McLaughlin, Tim
Buck, D.G.

Bruner, O.C.
Black, G.E.
Scrafford, C.G.
Mitchell, Joshua (Fred Howell)
Neff, S.C.
Clelland, J.W.
Teegarden, William
Ramsey, Jacob

arrived October 1883

Martin, N.H.
Roots, John
Briggs, E.
Meyer, Japhet
Brower, Mrs E.
Southard, G.W.
Burke, Mrs
Warrenburg, F.
Meyer, John
Dorcus, Mrs O.J.

Stone, A.L.
Moore, Mrs W.A.
Wohlford, Mr.
Morrill, Mrs
Wilson, Charles E.
Smith, Mrs
Thompson, Thomas
Hidden, Dr. J.S.
Fox, N.M.
SEVERAL DID NOT STAY

from 'only yesterday' 1931, in the 1961 Courier (30 years ago)

The KANZA Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association will be sponsoring an Argonaut Mini-Encampment on March 14,1999. This event is for history buffs. The theme of the event is the 150th Anniversary of the California Gold Rush. Pre-registration is required and is $8 per person. You may pre-register by sending your check payable to the KANZA Chapter of OCTA to registration chairman Glenn Larson, 239 Hwy 9, Waterville, KS 66548. Your registration fee includes an emigrant dinner at noon, entertainment, trail and gold rush displays. If you have further questions, please call Michael Philbrick at 785-336-3645 or send him an email message at his address: explorer@nvcs.com. Michael is the KANZA Chapter president for 1999.

98

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

99

Name: ______________________________

Address: ______________________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ______ Phone: (___) _____ - ______

_____ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person _____Renewal

_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person _____New

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

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Jeriann Rethman 336-3421 (02)
John Rethman 336-3421 (02)

Fountain in park no longer refreshes thirsty horses

Three-ton granite piece originally stood in Main Street

It has probably been a long time since a horse has slaked its thirst in the Seneca City Park, but that is the original purpose of the ornamental granite fountain located in the park's east end.

The story starts with the death of a wealthy bachelor philanthropist, Hermon Lee Ensign, in New York City, around the turn of the century. Mr. Ensign had no near relatives to inherit his wealth, and the bulk of his fortune, by the terms of his will, was dedicated to the formation of a society known as the National Humane Alliance, with the horse and other animals as objects of charity.

Mr. Ensign was a lover of fine horses and his associate in business, Louis Seaver, was made executor of the will, secretary-treasurer of the society, and was instructed to devote the entire amount to the distribution of drinking fountains for animals, horses in particular.

The persistence of an early-day Mayor led to Seneca acquiring one of the "Ensign" fountains. According to information found in earlier copies of this newspaper, Mayor Jake Cohen had industriously sought one of the fountains for Seneca for over one year before the following letter was received by the City Council from the National Humane Alliance:

"Referring to the donation of one of our drinking fountains to your city which donation has been very persistently solicited for many months by his honor the Mayor, we now state, the writer having visited your city for the purpose of inspecting the proposed site of the fountain, we have decided to deliver one of our second size fountains to the city of Seneca, free of charge, freight prepaid, provided we are officially informed of the following conditions: that the city of Seneca will take the fountain from the car and place it on a good foundation at the intersection of Main and Wayne Streets, put in good water connection and guarantee a constant water supply, permanent care to said fountain."

Mayor Cohen wasn't one to leave things to chance, and when Mr. Seaver visited Seneca he was treated to a ride behind Cohen's beautiful black horses, the newspaper article notes.

The Seneca City Council officially accepted the fountain at its September 2, 1910 meeting. The three-ton piece of polished granite was placed in the center of the intersection of Main and (now) Third Streets; its round cement base can still be seen at the intersection.

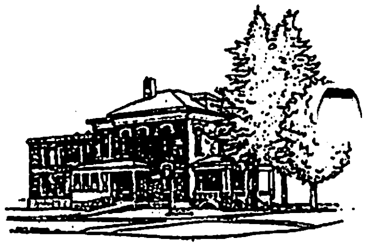
The fountain undoubtedly saw much use at that location; near to the Seneca Theatre and the Gilford Hotel, horses brought into town could have a drink of Maxwell Spring water which was piped into town around the same time. It was assumed that the fountain would remain in place and in use for hundreds of years.

But cars got thicker on Main Street and horses became fewer. And soon came the day that the big fountain in the middle of the street was a hindrance to traffic. Just when it was taken down is unclear. But according to newspaper stories, it laid in sections in the city park for a number of years.

Later, a garden club, or a group of clubs, had the fountain erected in the city park, where it stands today, serving as a bird bath and ornament.

REPRINTED FROM COURIER-TRIBUNE. Seneca, K

THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
of Seneca, Nemaha County, Kansas



Built in 1879

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

August 27, 1999

Presidents Letter

Thank you for allowing me to serve a second year. Last year I was the new person on the block. I have come to know the many volunteers and can appreciate what it requires to keep a large volunteer operation going. There are business meetings, fund raisers and of course the operation of a museum, including the cleaning of a large facility!

We have some excellent volunteers, I will not name those many volunteers for fear of omitting someone, however the outgoing Vice President, Lillian Engelken, has provided me with inspiration and ideas for continuing. Lillian was also a past President and she remains active on numerous projects..

The twelve Board of Directors are listed on the front page of the Pioneer Press, they devote considerable time on committees, fund raising efforts and building maintenance. The next time you see one of them on the street, please recognize them for their efforts. I am certain they would appreciate your thoughts and ideas on how to improve our Nemaha County Historical Society.

There are approximately 250 dues paying members. Members participation is what really makes a volunteer organization. We need more members, you are encouraged to bring prospective members to our dinners, open house and meetings. The dues are minimal ($5.00) and the rewards are many.

One of our volunteers, Dorothy Hunninhake, recently fell and broke her hip while working in the Sheriffs' living quarters. Her frequent visits to the museum are missed. We wish Dorothy a rapid recovery.

Again thank you for allowing me to serve a second year.

Alan

Alan L. Ward, President

Membership Report - Life Members

The By-Laws of the historical society state that the annual dues shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall be paid in advance of July 1, and that any member whose dues are not paid by August 1, shall be removed from the membership roster. The Board of Directors has set the annual membership fee at $5.00.

The By-Laws provide for a life membership which is $100.00 each, payable in one payment.

There is also a provision in the By-Laws for memorials. When memorial contributions of $50.00 or more are made to the historical society in memory of a deceased member, a Memorial Certificate shall be issued in the name of the deceased and filed in the museum Memorial Book along with a short biography of the deceased, the names of the memorial donors, and the total amount received.

There are, at present, forty-four life members. Many of them joined in the early years of the society and have been more than repaid for their $50.00 fee, which is what a life membership was until a few years ago. Several life memberships have been given by the society in gratitude for service to the society, and several families have given their children life memberships.

The following is a list of our life members as of today:

Nora Helen Monroe	Grand Island, NE	Peggy Buehler	Tacoma, WA
August Olberding	Baileyville, KS	Harry C.M. Burger	Seneca, KS
Reva Olberding	Baileyville, KS	Mary Chamberlin	Seneca, KS
Marcia Philbrick	Seneca, KS	Gladys Eaton	Oakland, CA
Michael Philbrick	Seneca, KS	Mary Enneking	Topeka, KS
Lorena Ronnebaum	Seneca, KS	Pauline Esslinger	Bern, KS
Francis Schraad	Seneca, KS	Floyd & Bertha Ford	Wetmore, KS
James Sheik	Bern, KS	Alice Faigh Gardner	Topeka, KS
Margie Sheik	Bern, KS	Clarence Haug	Seneca, KS
Mary Margaret Schumacher	Dallas, TX	Shirley Heideman	Seneca, KS
Alyce Smith	Topeka, KS	Anita Heiman	Seneca, KS
Mary Sourk	Goff, KS	Greg R. Johnson	Troy, KS
Loren J. Sudbeck	Seneca, KS	Grace Kohake	Seneca, KS
Anita Tuttle	Downey, CA	Leonard Kohake	Seneca, KS
Dr. A.E. Vitt	Seneca, KS	Mildred Lanning	Sabetha, KS
Earl Volz	Sabetha, KS	Flossie Lasley	Stanton, IA
Theda Volz	Sabetha, KS	Christopher Lauer	Los Angeles, CA
Mike Wassenberg	Warrenton, VA	David Lauer	Seneca, KS
Fr. Richard C. Wempe	Seneca, KS	Sally Lauer	Seneca, KS
Robert Winkler	Wichita, KS	Richard Massieon	Seneca, KS
Ali Rose Winterscheidt	Seneca, KS	Theo McDonough	Seneca, KS
James P. Yunghans	Seneca, KS		
Joseph Yunghans	Emporia, KS		

1875 (October)

The turnip crop in Court House square is now in good shape to eat, and will prove a big thing for the hungry crowd who attend court week after next.

The following article was in the April 1994 "Kansas Review," the publication of the Kansas State Genealogical Society, Vol. 19, No. 4, page 18.

To W.W. Dudley
Commissioner of Pensions
Washington DC

Dear Sir: We the undersigned residents of Goff and vicinity, feeling for our fellow creatures and the sufferings caused by the late Civil War, would most pathetically and feelingly urge upon your attention the claim that has been presented to you by Mr. Jerome R. Pickett of this Town, who held a Lieutenants commission in our late war and was an orderly in company K, Regiment 6 of Ohio Veteran Volunteers at the time of receiving his wounds.

Being each of us personally acquainted with his circumstances, and the pain and misery he suffers from the effects of his injuries, would urge you in the cause of humanity and right to speedily process his claim.

As a matter of Charity we would alone press it - For shattered health and hopes crushed out, we urge it as a matter of justice. And that he now be reccompensed (sic) so far as human aid can be offered for those services he so willingly sacrificed for his Country. He is worth, has a suffering family and needs the aid so long (sic) - Again we plead your most earnest (sic) and earliest efforts in his behalf.

Goff Kansas
Dec 12 - 1882

S. R. Hatch
E. B. Abbott
W. G. Reed
J. W. Boxley
C. E. Hagerman
Thomas W. Dickson
John H. Barnes
W. J. Berridge
H. C. Stevens
A. L. Narrington
Thos. Berridge
William E. Harbough

C. C. Abbott
M. P. Reynolds
Wm. H. Roblyer
James Hiner
John A. Delay
M. H. Maltby
Ben Clem
Nathan Ford
L. Cline
A. L. Myers
W. E. Blazier
W. B. Peckenpough

M. B. Downey
W. R. Brownlee
Harvey Hittle
George Calhoun
E. W. Warren
D. D. Donaldson
W. E. McKibbin
Geo. Hunter
Wm. N. Conover
Frank Blazier
Benton Hill
H. Shepherd

The above petition was provided by DAWNE SLATER-PUTT, of Markle, IN. It was found in a Civil War Pension file, signed by 39 residents of Goff, Nemaha County, KS, who were urging the government to hastily process the soldier's pension application, and attesting to knowing him and the physical ailments that caused him to apply for pension. Ms. Slater-Putt also provided a photocopy of the petition and signatures, now in the possession of the Editor of the Kansas Review, and is available to anyone who is interested.

1875

Dr Snyder returned from his St Louis trip on Saturday, and brought back with him an electric battery, with which he is since amusing the boys and "shocking" all the victims that take hold. It makes the fellows squirm!

Seneca Weekly Courier January 1884

Additions and improvements are listed to businesses and residences in Seneca, among the list are these items of note:

Congregational parsonage, $1,500.00
H. Burger, addition to residence, $50.00--to tenant house $75.00
Scrafford & Ford, opera hall & store building, $17,000.00
Addition to the Baptist parsonage, $100.00
Improvements on M.E. parsonage, $100.00
Barney Fell, addition to cigar factory, $150.00
Jas. Shaff, photograph gallery, $325.00
Farmers' Shipping Association building, $200.00
E. Butt, repairs on drug store, $250.00
R.E. Nelson, restaurant building, $150.00
School Dist. No. 11, Van Loan Memorial School Building, $4,000.00
Fuller & Son, hardware building, $1500.00

It was noted to read the list carefully, then send it to friends so they could consider the advantages of coming to Seneca.

Courtesy - Mary Steinlage

Grandma Remembers

"The Wolf and Grandma"

About 10 in the morning. Oct. 29, 1974, the wolf almost reached Grandma's back door.

The grandson's three dogs met him there and loud barking and howling soon filled the air.

Grandma ran out to her surprise, she saw the wolf and couldn't believe her eyes.

The wolf would get up and the dogs drag him down: that's the way they went around and around.

Grandma grabbed a board and swatted his head, but she very well knew that the wolf wasn't dead.

She ran for the axe and opened the shop door, saw the small sledge hammer stand there on the floor.

So back to help the dogs and with a few blows more, that wolf will never reach Grandma's back door.

PAGE FIVE
THE JOURNAL-LEADER
Thurs., Nov. 10, 1977

Grandma Remembers

10-23-77

There is an old story tha my daddy told me when I was yet in pigtails. I cannot prove this story but here it is as remember it.

A man (I do not know his name), his wife and children (I do not know how many) started to build a shack one-half mile south of where Fairview cemetery is now, or the Goff cemetery as some may call it. The shack was never finished as the Indians killed the family, and they were buried there when found later by soldiers.

We passed this spot when we went to Goff and for many years the shack stood empty and the mound of yellow clay could be seen where the family was buried. Nobody farmed the spot even after the shack was torn down and the field around was planted to corn. Now the field is in brome and the graves are covered with grass.

I still remember the shack and graves but the story was one told to Dad. Maybe someone knows more about it.

Grandma Remembers

I can look out of my kitchen window and see the old red barn still sturdy and strong. It was built long before I was born, on a farm about three quarters of a mile (as the crow flies) from where it is now.

Dad bought that farm and moved the barn where it is now about the year 1900 or 1901. They didn't have tractors then but used horses and mules to pull it through the field over ditches and hills. It is so big and heavy the movers had a lot of trouble. Something was always breaking. It took two weeks to move it. What I remember most, they crossed over the watermelon patch and smashed so many big ripe watermelons.

The barn has a big driveway in the center, large enough to hold three big hayrack loads of hay at one time. There were stalls for a dozen horses on one side of the driveway. On the other side were three large grain bins and an open pen for sheep, hogs, or calves. A big haymow was over all the bins, stalls and driveway.

We kids had a swing in the driveway and could swing high enough to touch our feet to the haymow floor. Many games of hide and seek, and cops and robbers were played there.

The inside of the barn has been changed over the years and a cow shed added. But it still holds hay and grain and many happy memories for me, my children and grandchildren.

Copied from "THE COURIER", February 29, 1884

SENECA HAS

One jail
One tailor
Two banks
Four hotels
One lock-up
One nursery
One foundry
One railroad
One elevator
One laundry
Two bakeries
One creamery
A. W. C. T. U.
One gunsmith
Ten preachers
Four churches
Three dentists
Fifteen lawyers
One wood yard
One brass band
One stock yard
Nine physicians
Five restaurants
One news dealer
One fair ground
Four shoe shops
One R. R. depot
One opera house
One hair dresser
Two newspapers
Two coal dealers
One marble yard
One music dealer
One skating rink
Two brick yards
Four stock scales
Two paint shops
Two drug stores
One police court
One court house
Two public wells
One Auction store
One cigar factory
One buggy house
One variety store
Two barber shops
One G. A. R. Hall
Four livery stables
Four lumber yards
Two jewelry stores
Two meat markets
One broom factory
Some land agencies
Three harness shops
Three billiard rooms
One lodge I. O. O. F.
Five hardware stores
Two furniture stores
One fruit evaporator
Several old bachelors
One or two old maids
Seven carpenter shops
One lodge A. O. U. W.
Five blacksmith shops
Three millinery stores
One monthly magazine
Two military companies
One lodge A. F. & A. M.
One boot and shoe store
Several insurance offices
A long list of pedagogues
One butter and egg house
Two calf-weaner factories
Two fine school buildings
Two implement buildings
One grist and flouring mill
Several real estate agencies
Three photograph galleries
Four exclusive grocery stores
One exclusive dry goods store
One hook and ladder company
Two washing machine factories
Several grain and stock dealers
One hundred charming women
One farmers' shipping association
Five additions to its original limits
Five grocery and dry goods stores
The best country trade of any town in the West

SENECA EXPECTS

A big hotel
To bore for coal
Another railroad
A big immigration
A big building boom
Another bank building
Several fine new residences
An era of general prosperity.

1875

John E. Smith has erected a bus for his hotel, to make the trip to and from the depot in connection with all express trains. The institution is not ornamental, but commodious.

The Board of the Nemaha County Historical Society met at the museum on August 17, 1999. Attending were Alan Ward, Ardella Becker, Gene Visser Ray Hunninghake and Pauline Esslinger.

Alan opened the meeting at 7:30pm. Ardella gave the treasurer's report. Various projects were discussed, but since there wasn't a quorum, no action was taken. Alan gave 'hand-outs' on open house ideas, and these were discussed and other ideas were given on the different projects. The people that were exhibitors or who helped will be asked if they wish to come again this year.

The Fall dinner meeting will be at Valentino's, Seneca, KS, Sunday, September 12, 1999, at 6:30 PM. If you wish to go, contact a board member before Friday, September 10, and let them know. If you cannot come at the last minute, please let them know, or you will be billed for the meal.

Alan Ward, president of the Nemaha County Historical Society, called a special meeting August 31, 1999 at the museum in Seneca. Attending were, Alan Ward, Ardella Becker, Joyce Olberding, Francis Davis, Gene Visser and Pauline Esslinger, reporter.

Alan opened the meeting at 1 pm, and established there was a quorum. Ardella, treasurer, passed out a financial report to the members.

There was a discussion on applying for a grant and reviewing the application form. A letter was received from Kansas Tourism, inquiring if we were interested in joining their Web page. Alan had logged on their site and reported it was very interesting and had several places in NE Kansas included on the page.

Alan reported we have 212 members, 86 in genealogy and 34 life members. We mail 207 Pioneer Press news letters. He noted that Dorothy Pearl Murphy stated, "If your name label reads '99' this will be your last news letter."

The calling lists for pies, etc. are being revised for the board members. The Open House projects were discussed and appointments made for the committees.

A motion was made and approved to purchase the memorial wall plaque.

REMINDER: The dinner meeting is September 12 at 6:30 pm at Valentino's, the program will be Loren Feldkamp and his Civil War group.

99

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

00

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ________ Phone: (___) _____ - ______

- ______ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person
- ______ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person
- ______ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

______Renewal

______New

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Seneca, KS 66538

9/8/99

Membership expires: June 2000

Mary Steinlage
Route 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

THE PIONEER PRESS

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THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 66
DECEMBER 1999

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Joyce Olberding 336-3334 (02)
SECRETARY: Barbara Chilson 336-6221 (01)
TREASURER: Ardella Becker 868-3545 (01)
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Caryl Schell 868-2861 (01)
Ray Hunninghake 336-3790 (02)
Jeriann Rethman 336-3421 (02)
John Rethman 336-3421 (02)

1875

The Methodists of Seneca have begun the erection of a new Gothic church, which when completed will be an ornament to the city. All those who wish to see our city embellished with public buildings and improvements have now an opportunity to assist. The Methodists in this vicinity are weak, but are a determined and enterprising people and will succeed.

A Merry Christmas
and a bright
New Year

Reprint Courier Tribune June 1970

Sheriff of 74 years ago recalls much Seneca history

June 19

By: Dan Diehl

It is not often a reporter has the opportunity to interview a man whose career began before the twentieth century. At least not at this late date in the century. Last week I talked to such a man and his tales of early day life in Nemaha County were full of history, interesting and oftentimes humorous. I only hope I can get them down on paper in the same interesting style as they were told to me.

The man I talked to was Jack Murray, who was staying last week with Elmer Wintenscheidt. Mr. Murray is 96 years old, his sight and hearing are almost gone, but his mind is sharp with vivid memories of his youth. His voice is strong and clear and his stories are easy to listen to.

Mr. Murray was sheriff of Nemaha County from 1894 until 1900. He was nominated for the position before he was old enough to vote, although he was 21 when he was elected and sworn in. He had previously served as a deputy under Sheriff Lammon.

"The thing that got me elected," Mr. Murray said, "was catching a burglar in the general store at Centralia." He said he caught the culprit [illegible] night after receiving a tip, and entered the store and caught the burglar. Murray and the thief had a big fight before he overcame the man and the county papers played up the fight. It helped him get the biggest vote ever given for the office.

Another time he traced a man who had stolen a threshing machine into Oklahoma. Oklahoma was just a territory then and as Mr. Murray states it; "there were a lot of tough birds there." He found his man and arrested him, but had to keep him in Oklahoma for 24 hours before leaving. During that time, he was arrested for impersonating an officer and thrown in jail. When he was released from jail, he went to Arkansas City and hired an attorney and went back into Oklahoma and arrested his man again. This time he got back with him and the thief was sent to prison.

While Mr. Murray was serving as sheriff, he and his brother helped a horse thief escape into Nebraska. The horse thief was a young boy who rode a race horse. Many travelers would camp between Seneca and Baileyville at that time and horse races and trading often took place at the camp. The boy was a local boy who had been promised pay for riding in the races by some travelers. However, after riding for a few races, he had not been paid, so he rode out of camp one night on his employer's horse. The traveler reported the theft to Murray, who found the boy. When the boy told him the circumstances, Murray took him to the John Schrock home for breakfast and sent him into Nebraska.

"The travelers probably stole the horse in the first place," he explained.

He collected a $250 reward for arresting a member of a cattle rustling gang after receiving a "wanted" poster and recognizing the man at a sale in Centralia. Murray arrested the man at 4 a.m. and had some uneasy moments when the man reached for a pistol when Murray entered the house.

As a young boy, he carried mail from Seneca to Pawnee City for his father, who had the mail contract. Murray would start for Pawnee City one day on horseback and his brother start a day later. When Murray was headed back to Seneca, he would meet his brother. Sometimes they had express packages and a cart was used to carry them. This business stopped when the railroad began carrying the mail.

Murray served as assistant night watch in Seneca and was appointed constable of Richmond township when he was 15.

He said the population of Seneca at that time was "around 1,700." There was a foundry here then. One of the most successful businesses was Fuller Hardware store. Mr. Fuller, an Englishman, invented a calf weaner and went into production of his device and became wealthy.

Murray said Scrafford and Ford had a general store here where a good suit cost $18. "If a fellow was much of a trader, he could get a pair of suspenders thrown in," he said. Shoes were $2.50 a pair for W.L. Douglas brand, which was considered the best.

Mr. Murray is a self-educated man, having read law in the office of Wells and Wells in Seneca. However, he did attend school in Seneca. He said the school was located where the high school was torn down three years ago.

Murray said the Hotel Gilford was built around 80 years ago by Charles Scrafford and John Gilchrist. The hotel got its name from the "Gil" in Gilchrist and "ford" in Scrafford. Gilchrist was a banker and Scrafford had served time in the state penitentiary for juggling school funds. He escaped from prison and eventually made his way to South America, where he made a fortune. After the statute of limitation had run out on him, Scrafford returned and built the hotel. His wife lived here while he was gone.

Murray was born here in a house which was a mixture of sod and lumber. His father operated the livery stable here along with his mail contracts to Centralia, Pawnee City, DuBois and Marysville.

Murray's first wife was Mary Cromwell, daughter of Simon and Mary Cromwell. Mr. Cromwell was an attorney in Seneca. The first Mrs. Murray, who died in 1923, was a sister of Mrs. Agnes Buehler.

After leaving Seneca when he was 26 years old Murray has served as police chief of Kansas City, Kansas; sales manager for seven states for International Motor Co.; sales manager for Mexico International Land Co.; superintendent of the State Reformatory at Hutchinson; and bought the first tract of land for the Kansas Turnpike before retiring 13 years ago at the age of 83. In addition, Mr. Murray is a poet and has had a book of poems published. He is known as the "poet of Quindaro."

After leading such a full and busy life, is Mr. Murray ready to slow down? It didn't sound like it to this reporter as before we left he promised to send a copy of the second printing of his book of poetry.

A Town on His Farm.

Wm. Roggenkamp, one of our progressive farmers living north of Baileyville, is the lucky owner of a townsite. Mr. Roggenkamp is the owner of a half section on the line of the Topeka & Northwestern Railway, recently built from Marysville to Topeka as a cut-off for the Union Pacific. The railway company has purchased 26 acres off his farm on which they have located their station for the new town of Rochester. Just what this adds to the value of the remainder of Roggenkamp's farm need not be mentioned. Stores, a lumber yard and other enterprises are going in, and Mr. Roggenkamp himself expects to move out there and engage in business.

Where is The Town?
What happened?
Does Anyone Know?
From The Feb 28, 1907
Courier Democrat
courtsey of Dorothy
Pearl Murphy.

Seneca Tribune October 1883

The new town of Columbo is located about a half mile from the old town of Cincinnati, near the Nebraska and Kansas State line, and several ne uildings are going up, including one large store (m.

An article from the Courier Tribune, 13 June 1946

COURT HOUSE ON WAY DOWN

Taking Off the Roof

Reporter Finds Memories Still Hang About The Old Structure

The old Nemaha county court house is beginning to come down. Finish lumber and window frames are mostly out and the roof is being removed over the old court room.

For those who have never seen war damage, the place if beginning to look now as it might have if struck be a light bomb--pretty well ripped and tattered, lots of plaster fallen.

Though the building had served its time, and it's a good thing to get it down, memories seem to hang around the place like they do around some old deserted homes. The rooms are empty now where hundreds of couples came to get their marriage licenses and many to wed; a great hole lets the sky in through the roof, stringers to the courtroom where lawyers gave forth in praise of their clients and lambasted the opposition in days when oratory was at its height. Here too, men were freed and others found that crimes had cost them years of imprisonment.

One can almost hear in the building too, the tramp of road delegations calling on county commissioners, the voices of taxpayers raised in protest, as has occasionally happened down through the years. The floors are worn from those who came from all over the county to consult officers, to pay taxes, see about roads and bridges, buy licenses, conduct all other matter of county business.

A scrap of paper floats on the floor---receipt of 1905, signed by D.D. Graham, deputy, for W.R. Graham, treasurer--some receipt the owner never took away, useless to the county. In another room, there are a few old House Journals of the State of Kansas, vintage of 1931--books some suffering office-holder probably was presented by the state, probably never read. All records of any account have been removed. These are just scraps. Mostly the rooms show just rubble of plaster. In the attic, evidence shows how in the past few years the building became the residence of pigeons.

One of the things one wonders is looking through the building is why a form of cinder ash was ever used in its repair. Some of this material used between floors has broken loose.

Dale Cook was stringing a wire about the old building yesterday to keep persons away, prevent them from getting hurt by falling material.

Alf. Levick had braced a board or two against a tree northwest of the courthouse for his desk and was conducting an outdoor lumber yard, selling stuff for the county that had been ripped out. Alf., who came to Seneca around 67 years ago, recalls much of the county courthouse history. The newer part of the building is what was added in repair fifty years ago, after the tornado wrecked part of the structure.

When Alf. was a boy, part of an old jail stood northwest of the location of the present building. It was in this area that a scaffold was built before that time and Mel Baugh was put to death, only legal execution ever held in the county.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP is from June 30 to June 30, and is $5.00 per year.
GENEALOGY SOCIETY: It is a requirement that to belong to the genealogy society of Nemaha County, you must join the Historical Society (as we are an affiliate of the Historical Cociety) therefore, the dues to the dual membeeship is $10.00.
$5.00 for Historical & $5.00 for Genealogy
LIFE MEMBERSHIP (HISTORICAL ONLY): one time payment of $100.00.
(genealogy membership would still be $5.00 per year)

Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Membership chairman & Pauline Esslinger, President, Genealogy Society.

Seneca Tribune October 1883

While Dr Lesh was out in his gig the other day to visit a patient in the country, he had occasion to cross a creek and was surprised when the water came up to his seat. He drove on through and on reaching the shore found he had caught a cat-fish between his legs. The Doctor prizes his gig more highly than ever now that he has discovered that it serves the purpose of a seine as well as a vehicle.

Seneca Tribune October 1883

Fisher and Yarger have put up two buildings at Wild Cat recently. One is the new store and postoffice at St. Benedict and the other a dwelling for Mr Omering, who has bought lots in the new town of St. Benedict, laid out by Mr Rohenkohl.

An article from the Courier Democrat, 15 July 1892

A CAVE CONTAINING SKELETON DISCOVERED

J.W. Hughes, who is rapidly distroying the business of bridge building in the county by constructing bridges that neither wear out nor wash out, while at work driving piling on Vermillion creek north of Centralia, discovered what proved to be an unknown cave. While at work some farmer's dogs chased a wolf past the place where Mr. Hughes and his men were at work. Hearing the dogs barking loudly they concluded that they must have cornered the wolf, and going to where the dogs were surrounding what to them appeared to be a wolf's den. Mr. Hughes immediately procured a lantern for the purpose of locating the wolf, but when the light was lowered it could be readily seen that the supposed wolf's den was a cave or cavern that receded from the opening some ninety or a hundred feet. Mr. Hughes like Israel Putman took a heavy club and entered the cave for the purpose of driving the wolf out so the dogs might catch it as it came out. He had proceeded but a short distance when the wolf attempted to dash past him for the opening but as it did so Mr. Hughes struck it a blow over the head that made Miss Wolf exceedingly groggy, and swipe No. two caused the shadow of death to pass over this wolflet's domicile. Mr. Hughes began to examine the cave. The cave was over 50 feet wide, 90 feet long and the height of the ceiling about 20 feet, making some torches Mr. Hughes and his men began to examine the cave. A huge rock weighing some four hundred pounds was rolled over and under it was found a tin box about eighteen inches square and locked with an old fashioned padlock. The clasp was easily broken and the box was found to contain some papers and letters and about three dollars worth of silver coin of some foreign country, most of the coins were dated 1722 and an inscription in Latin. The letters were excepting one so faded that it was impossible to read them. The one that was legible was a receipt for money paid for a slave, and read as follows:

Jamestown, Va., March 12, 1720.

Received from Capt. Abel Morris eight hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco for one colored man 19 years old and named "Dick".

Your humble servant,
Sir. Henry Rupert

In the back part of the cave was discovered the skeleton of a man beside which lay an old Prussian dueling pistol. An old sword nearly eaten up with rust lay only a few feet away from the skeleton. The sword was taken from the scabbard and on the still bright blade of the sword was a family crest, under which was engraved the name of Ludwig Rupert. The news of the discovery soon spread and Mr. A.J. Birchfield editor of the Centralia Journal who used to ride pony express is an expert on coins, and enthusiast on family crests visited the cave and examined the coins and crest and pronounced the coins the same as issued by the Prussian Government at the times of the dates of the coins. The crest he said was that of a rich Nobleman of Prussia during the beginning of the eighteenth century who made an immense fortune from a patent medicine for the sure cure of la grippe. Mr. Hughes has the coins and sword in his possession.

Grandma Remembers

I remember when Dad and Mother made molasses. Dad said the way to have good molasses was to start in the spring with the right kind of seed and the right kind of soil. He said if the soil was dark, the molasses would be dark but if the soil was light the molasses would be light.

The cain was planted about like corn. The seed spaced about a foot apart and kept free of weeds. In the fall when the cain was ripe the leaves were stripped off by hand, using two lath, one on each side of the cain stalk above the top leaf and brought down. The leaves fell to the ground.

After the stripping, the cain was cut near the ground with a corn knife and loaded in a wagon. When the wagon was full the heads were cut off with the same corn knife and the cain stalks piled on the ground like lumber until ready to use. The heads were used for feed for chickens.

I was too young to go to school and liked to be out where the action was. The cain mill was east of a tall thick hedge. A horse was used to turn the mill. The horse went around and around all day and a tumbling rod turned the mill.

My brother fed the stalks of cain into the mill and the juice was pressed out into a big pan that had a long pipe in the side which carried the juice through the hedge to the molasses pan on the north side of a shed.

A fire was made under the pan. The pan was made with ridges so the juice would run between the ridges to the side of the pan where the ridges ended so the juice could get through to the other side of the pan where the ridges ended. That way the juice went back and forth over the heated pan and was usually molasses by the time it reached the end of the pan and if not it was held there until done.

Dad made wooden paddles out of new shingles so we could taste the juice and see when it was done. I enjoyed the tasting most.

When the molasses was done it was drained into a bucket and stored in jugs or barrels. The big wooden barrels would hold fifty gallons.

The cain or pummies as it was called after the juice was pressed out had to be hauled away and fed to the cattle.

One day a colored man, Mr. Bibbs, was unloading his cain on the east side of the hedge. A man on the west side was buying some molasses and dad was showing him samples. The man said in a loud voice, "I don't care which molasses it is except I don't want any of Mr. Bibbs molasses. It might make me black." A loud laugh was heard on the east side of the hedge and dad told him that was Mr. Bibbs'. The man was sorry and said he was only joking and went over to apologise. Mr. Bibbs accepted the apology and thought it a good joke also.

Mother wanted to make apple butter so dad made a big pan and put a fire under it so she could stir the apple butter and watch the molasses at the same time.

After the molasses was all made, one time dad put the cover on the wagon and loaded some molasses barrels in it, put a spring seat on and a feather bed on the wagon floor. The next morning long before day light, dad, mother and I started for mother's old home about forty miles away.

Forty miles is a long ride and a slow one. We passed one field where some deer were near the fence. I don't remember seeing any deer before. I suppose I was getting tired because mother told me if I would take a nap on the feather bed we would get there quicker.

The next thing I remember was waking up in a strange house upstairs. I ran to a long stairway crying and a girl came and took me downstairs where mother was talking to some women. I remember one tall woman but don't know if that was my grandmother. I never saw her after that trip.

We did go to my uncles and I remember playing with my cousins but I don't remember coming back home in the covered wagon. Maybe I slept all the way home. I never was in a covered wagon again.

RePRINT
CentRALiA
JOURNAL - LeADeR
courtsey of
MARY STeiNlage

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. met November 9, 1999, in the Annex at the museum in Seneca. Attending were, Alan Ward, Ardella Becker, Naomi Turner, Ray Hunninghake, Gene Visser, Joyce Olberding and guests, John Becker and Pauline Esslinger.

President Alan Ward called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ardella gave the treasurers report. In the absence of the secretary, minutes were not read.

A discussion was held concerning the Open House date. The last 2 years we have encountered bad weather and some were wondering if it should be held earlier to avoid this problem. It was mentioned, that with all the church picnics this would create attendance problems too. A motion was made and approved that we would have the open house at the same time, the first Sunday in October, next year. It was noted that the last 2 years the weather had been unusual, but before that, it was generally a nice (if not chilly) Fall day.

Ideas were discussed on what interesting displays, etc. to feature at the open house. There used to be a theme in the past and special displays pertaining to the theme was used. Several ideas were suggested and noted to be looked into next year. If anyone has a suggestion or an idea they would like to see (as a quilt show, a display of artists painting, etc.) please let one of the board members know, we would welcome all ideas.

* * *

MEMORIAL: Roland Stallbaumer by Harry C.M. Burger

NEW MEMBERS:
Kathleen McGeeney (Historical & Genealogy) researching names of McGeeney, O'Conner, Kriley & Bedillion.

Steven Foreman (Historical & Genealogy) researching names of Thomas Dirl Webster.

NEW LIFE MEMBER:
Mary Ann Berkley

PIONEER PRESS

99 NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **00**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

City: ____________________ State: ______________

Zip + 4: ______________ - ________ Phone: (___) _____ - _______

_____ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person _____Renewal

_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person _____New

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 10
Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 2000 / H
Mary Steinlage
Route 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

12-8-99

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to raise fund for the society. Donations of soup, dessert or relishes will be appreciated. Those wishing to donate food should contact Lillian Engelken to make arrangements for the donation. Donated food may be brought to the museum on the morning of the twelfth. Workers will be needed to run the lunch stand that day.

The open house was then discussed. It was noted that attendance this past year was down from the previous year. An alternative of hosting the open house on alternate years was mentioned. It was recommended that Open House not be changed. No action to change the status of open house was taken.

The March dinner meeting is being planned for Corning at 6:30 p.m. on March 8. Details are not currently available. The June meeting will be in Centralia.

The society will be purchasing storage drawers for the obituary cards.

Gene and Naomi thanked the society for plants they received during their recent illnesses.

Carol moved and Naomi seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

100 YEARS AGO

During my search for information on Nemaha County, I have always been visually attracted to the advertisements and charts in the old newspapers. This issue of our society newsletter has been devoted to taking a look at those methods of recording history. These advertisements and charts were found in the *Seneca Courier-Democrat* for the first half of the year 1898. They include the people in business, the prices of goods of the day, and even an example of the editor's humor in news reporting. Before I leave you to browse I have one question: Just how did so many lawyers keep busy 100 years ago?

We are Going to Quit Business in Seneca.

Having purchased a business elsewhere, we are compelled to close up our affairs here by April 15th, and Commencing on

....SATURDAY, MARCH 19.

WE WILL OFFER OUR **Entire Stock of Groceries** AT ACTUAL WHOLESALE COST

FOR CASH ONLY.

This is no Fake Sale and we have no Shoddy, Worthless Goods to dispose of. This is an opportunity that does not often present itself to *Buy* the *Best* of *Goods* at their *Actual Cost.*

Our Fixtures for Sale after April 10th.

PRODUCE TAKEN.

VANCLEEF & SON.

CITY GREEN HOUSE.

PLANTS, BULBS, CUT FLOWERS, WIRE DESIGNS, FANCY BASKETS and POTS. For Sale by

Mrs. FRED FISCHER, Seneca, Kas.

J. J. H. STAHL,

Marble Yard.

Across street from old M. E. church.

MANUFACTURER

AND DEALER IN

Marble AND Granite,

Fine Ornamental Work a Specialty

ROGER MURPHY,

AUCTIONEER.

WILL cry sales in Namaha and adjoining counties. Satisfaction guaranteed. Reference given if required. Call on me at my farm 2½ miles southeast of town, or address me box 344, Seneca, Kansas. Make dates at G. W. Williams store.

MONEY!

Farm Loans!

The Loan agency of J. P. TAYLOR is the oldest in Nemaha County. He has been continuously in the business since 1875, and has made more farm loans than any other agency The Company he represents now has over

$30,000.00

in loans in Nemaha county, and is making more new loans than any other company. The secret of MR. TAYLOR's success as a loan agent is his ability to offer the most

FAVORABLE TERMS

to the borrowers and to close loans without delay. MR. TAYLOR is now making five year loans with option of paying part or all of the principal at the end of any year before maturity. Don't fail to see

J. P. TAYLOR,

before making applicat for a loan.

The Estey Organ

For sale on easy payments.

YOUNG BROS.

Buy a Genuine Round Oak Stove. THERE IS NONE AS GOOD.

.... To Black your Stove Use ....

The Hardware Man's "Secret" Stove Polish

For the benefit of our patrons and all those who will need to black their stove shortly, we have put up in pint packages, ready for use **The Stove Polish we have used for twenty-five years in Seneca. It has no equal.** Come and get a package of the Yellow Lable "Secret" Stove Polish.

FOR SALE ONLY BY **FULLER & SON.**

Basis of Taxation of Nemaha County, Kansas

Pursuant to call, the Trustees of the several townships of Nemaha county Kansas, met at the office of the County Clerk, Monday, March 7, 1898, to agree upon a basis of valuation for assessment. Meeting called to order by County Clerk F. M. Hartman. J. D. Magill, of Capioma township, was chosen chairman and F. O. Weary, of Rock Creek township, chosen secretary.

Motion that personal property be assessed at cash value, and after deducting the constitutional exemption return one-third for taxation. Carried.

The following is the list agreed upon:

Stallions, for each $2.50 service fee		$ 50 00
Horses under one year old and yearlings	$ 6 00 to	8 00
Horses coming two years old	10 00 to	15 00
Horses coming three years old	15 00 to	25 00
Horses, work, first-class	30 00 to	60 00
Horses, work second-class	20 00 to	30 00
Horses, work, third-class	10 00 to	20 00
Bulls	20 00 to	75 00
Fat steers coming four years old, fat steers coming three years old, fat steers coming two years old, per cwt	3 00 to	4 00
Steers three years not fattened	27 00 to	32 00
Steers two years old not fattened	20 00 to	26 00
Fat cows, per cwt	2 25 to	3 00
Mitch cows	20 00 to	35 00
Heifers, two years old, not fattened	15 00 to	20 00
Heifers two years old, fattened, per cwt	2 50 to	3 00
Heifers coming one year old and yearlings	10 00 to	15 00
Steers coming one year old and yearlings	12 00 to	20 00
Jacks		50 00
Mules, work, first-class	30 00 to	60 00
Mules, work, second-class	20 00 to	30 00
Mules, work, third-class	10 00 to	20 00
Mules and asses coming one year old and yearlings	6 00 to	8 00
Mules and asses coming two years old	10 00 to	15 00
Mules and asses three years old and over	15 00 to	25 00
Sheep six months old and over		2 00
Hogs six months old and over, per cwt		3 00
Mowers and reapers (combined machines and self-binders), mowers and reapers (single, not combined), threshing machines, riding plows, stubble; riding cultivators, walking cultivators, corn planters, riding; stalk cutter, lister and drill, agricultural implements not enumerated, pleasure carriages of every description and bicycles	Assessors' judgment	
Farm wagons, new, one year's wear	35 00 to	40 00
Farm wagons, two years' wear	20 00 to	30 00
Farm wagons, three years' wear and over	5 00 to	15 00
Gold watches	15 00 to	100 00
Silver and all other watches	2 00 to	20 00
Plate and jewelry, piano-fortes, reed organs, melodeans, other musical instruments, all interest bonds of the United States, all bonds and interest on bonds of any state, county, district, or municipality, stocks in any company or corporation, shares in National Banks, moneys, credits, less legal deduction, merchant's stock (average amount for preceding year), merchant's moneys and credits (average amount preceding year), manufacturer's stock (average amount for preceding year), manufacturer's moneys and credits (average amount preceding year) tax sale certificates, judgments, notes, mortgages	Cash value	
Hay, per ton	1 00 to	2 50

Corn	per bu.	$0 12	Millet seed	per bu.	$0 25
Oats	"	10	Timothy seed	"	75
Rye	"	30	Clover seed	"	2 00
Wheat	"	60	Flak seed	"	75
Barley	"	20			

Other personal property not enumerated above at cash value.

Real estate at one-third cash value.

J. D. MAGILL, Chairman.
F. O. WEARY, Secretary.

Attest: FRANK M. HARTMAN, County Clerk.

OLDEST MEAT MARKET

IN SENECA.

JOSEPH SCHMITZ, Proprietor.

Fresh and Salt Meats

ALWAYS ON HAND,

AND IS SOLD

Cheap As The Cheapest.

We have opened a Dressing House in Seneca ahd are here to stay

We Pay Highest Prices,

—SPOT CASH—

For Eggs, all kinds of Poultry, Hids, Furs, Feathers, Etc.

Wanted This Week:

500,000 lbs.

Ot Fat Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese and all the Eggs we can get

Bring them to us
and get the Cash.

Hens and Pullets, per lb .	5½c
Chickens, weighing 1½ to 2 lbs. per lb ,	5c
Roosters, old	2c
Roosters, young and smooth, per lb ,	4c
Turkey hens, young and old per lb..	7c
Tom Turkeys, young and old, per lb ,	6c
Ducks, per lb .	8½c
Geese	3½c

Northwestern Produce Co.

O. M. HENDERSON, Agt.

Seneca, Kansas.

The Home Bakery

Is at present putting out the best

Bread, Pies, Cakes and Pastry . . .

Ever before placed on the Seneca market.

o—A Lunch That Pleases.—o

ACKERMAN & HART.

Fresh Oysters when Seasonable.

...GROCERIES!

These prices are not snap shots nor leaders, but every day prices:

All Package Coffee, 10c.
A good Bulk Coffee, 11 lbs. for $1.00,
Morning Glory Coffee, 2 lbs for 45c.
No. 44 Coffee, 2 lbs. for 25c.
1 lb. African Java Coffee, 20c.
1 lb. Mocha & Java Coffee, 30c.
4 cans Red Cheries, 25c.
3 cans Tomatoes, 25c.
4 cans Corn, 25c.
4 cans Peas, 25c.
3 cans Lewis Lye, 25c.
4 cans Greenwich Lye, 25c.
1 lb. Horse Shoe Tobacco, 40c.
1 lb. Star Tobacco, 40c.
1 plug 6 for 10, 20c.
1 plug N. T. C. Tobacco, 20c.
12 sacks Salt, 25c.
1 gallon Sorghum, 35c.
1 gallon Best Sugar Syrup, 35c.
3 cans Salmon, 25c.
4 lbs. Macaroni, 25c.
4 packages Oat Meal, 25c.
10 lbs. Peas, 25c.
10 lbs. Beans, 25c.
6 lbs. California Prunes, 25c.
7 lbs. Dried Grapes, 25c.
1 gallon best Mustard, 50c.
2 lbs. Oysters, 2 cans, 25c.
3 packages Globe Parlor Matches, 25c.
3 packages Soda for 10c.
5 packages old Home-made Mince Meat, 25c.
A good Soap 15 bars, 25c.
1 Broom, 10c.
1 lb. can Rival Baking Powder, 10c.
1 quart Bottle Blueing, 10c.
6 lbs. Broken Rice, 25c.

...FLOUR...

We have the Celebrated BELOIT FLOUR. Every sack guaranteed:

Gold Coin, $1.35,
Standard A. Patent, $5.25,
Straight, $1.20,
Honest Queen, $1.15,
Clipper, $1.00,
Shorts, 65c,
Bran, 55c.

My goods are new and fresh, and my stock complete.

A. E. LEVICK.

Look! Read and Save! ...YOUR MONEY IN BUYING YOUR... Flour

—THE BEST MADE FOR THE LEAST MONEY—

Steinaur High Patent	*$2.60 per 100 lbs.*
Queen, Second Grade	*2.50 "*
Kramer High Patent	*2.55 "*
White Silk, Second Grade	*2.40 "*

Will take all kinds of Grain and Stock in Exchange at Market Price for Flour Also have Wellington Flour, Second Grade $2 per 100 lbs. Third Grade for $1 65 per 100 lbs

Am prepared to do your FEED GRINDING at any time. Will grind Corn at 2 cts per bushel. Corn and Oats or Rye, 2½ cts per bushel. COME AND BE CONVINCED.

JULIUS HILT, Bern, Kansas.

The Old Reliable

DRUG STORE.

Merely to remind you.

Citizens' State Bank.

SENECA, KANSAS.
(Successor to the SCOVILLE EXCHANGE BANK.)
Incorporated Under the Laws of Kansas.
Capital Paid In - - - - $40,000.00.

OFFICERS:
C. C. K. SCOVILLE, President. J. J. KNEPP, Vice President.
F. G. BERGEN, Cashier.

Drafts Sold on any Foreign Country.
Interest paid on Time Deposits.
Money loaned at 10 per cent.
A new Burglar Proof Screw Door Safe.
We, solicit your business.

DIRECTORS: C. C. K. SCOVILLE, J. J. KNEPP, P. J. EMMERT, A. L. L. SCOVILLE, W. F. THOMPSON, R. G. VANCLEEF, F. G. BERGEN, J. P. SAMS, HENRY FISCHER.

Lumber! Lumber!

And all Kinds of
Building Material...

1x12—16 Rough or SIS Barn Boards.
Corn Crib and Fencing Material.
B. & C. Siding. W. P. & Red Cedar Shingles

AT SPECIAL CUT PRICES
......AT......
KOELZER & STALLBAUMER,
o—o ST. BENEDICT, KANSAS. o—o

Krouse & Thompson,

Are not making
much noise.
But are selling Groceries
cheaper than anybody.

....QUALITY CONSIDERED.

One of Seneca's gay and festive young widows came near making a landing last Friday evening. The fascinating Horatio gobbled the bait all right, but he slipped the hook.

DEAN'S SHOE REPAIR SHOP

Good Work, Low Prices.

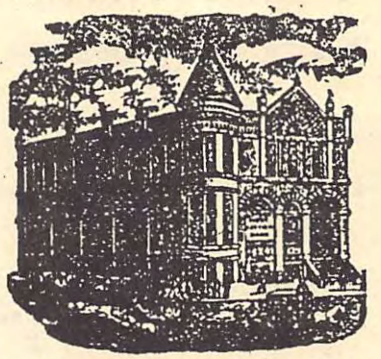
Men's half-soles	75c
Women's half-soles	50c
Boys' half-soles	50c

Children's shoes repaired cheaper. Patches, rips, 10c up. All work guaranteed. Rear door, under First National bank. **H. A. DEAN.**

ESTABLISHED 1874.

First National Bank

SENECA, - KANSAS.



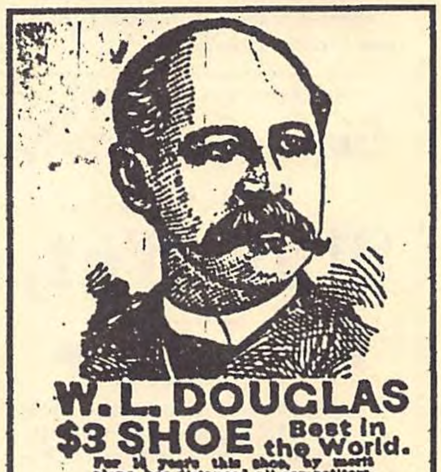
First and Oldest Bank in Nemaha County.

—OFFICERS.—
G. W. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT
R. E. NELSON, VICE PRESIDENT.
W. E. WILKINSON, CASHIER.

—DIRECTORS.—
J. H. COHEN,
S. H. FITZWATER,
R. E. NELSON,
C. C. PINCKNEY,
W. H. SMITH,
W. E. WILKINSON,
G. W. WILLIAMS.

This Bank, which is under conservative management, with a long and successful experience, offers to all a safe depository and liberal treatment.

Accounts of Individuals, Firms and Public Officials Solicited.



W. L. DOUGLAS $3 SHOE Best in the World.

For 14 years this shoe, by merit alone, has distanced all competitors.

W. L. Douglas $3.50, $4.00 and $5.00 shoes are the productions of skilled workmen, from the best material possible at these prices. Also $2.50 and $2.00 shoes for men, $2.50, $2.00 and $1.75 for boys and youths.

W. L. Douglas shoes are indorsed by over 1,000,000 wearers as the best in style, fit and durability of any shoe ever offered at the prices.

They are made in all the latest shapes and styles, and of every variety of leather.

If dealer cannot supply you, write for catalogue to W. L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass. Sold by

G. A. Marvin & Son,
SENECA, - KANSAS.

C. C. K. SCOVILLE,

Attorney at Law & Notary Public

SENECA, KANSAS.

Collections receive prompt attention.

J. E. TAYLOR. W. L. TAYLOR, City Attorney.

TAYLOR & TAYLOR,

Lawyers,

SENECA, KANSAS.

JOHN STOWELL,

Lawyer,

SENECA, - - KANSAS.

E. L. MILLER,

Attorney at Law,

Collections and other claims will receive strict attention.

Office over First National Bank.

S. K. WOODWORTH,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

OFFICES: First National Bank Building.

SENECA, KANSAS.

General Practice Exclusively. Business Strictly Attended to.

Chas. H. Herold,

Deutſcher

Advokat,

Praktizirt an allen Gerichtshöfen.

Kaufbrie'e, gerichtliche Urkunden und alle Notar-Arbeiten werden an gefertigt Feuer Ve.ſicherungs-, Land- und Bah -Agent.

Wechſel und Poſt Geld-Anweiſungen nach allen Theilen Europa's verkauft.

Agent für die Norddeutſcher Lloyd Dampſchiffahrts Linie.

Office: Schmitz Block, Südſeite der Main Straße.

Seneca - - Kansas.

DR. F. W. DRUM,

(GRADUATE)

DENTIST.

SPECIALITIES—

NON-COHESIVE and
COHESIVE GOLD FILLINGS,
CROWN and BRIDGE WORK,
GOLD and
ALLUMINUM PLATES.

Office over First National Bank.

Seneca, Kansas.

Local Anesthetics or Gas Administered

DR. H. F. DAVIS,

..DENTIST..

All Dental work done at a living price. Painless extracting.

Office in Felt Block over Blank's Store

F. W. MELCHERS, M. D.,

Physician and Surgeon.

(DEUTSCHER ARTZT.)

Calls promptly attended, night or day.
Office, corner State and Castle street, one door north of Larimer's livery barn,

SENECA, KANSAS.

Mrs. Elisa Melchers, M. D.

Physician and
Midwife.

☞ Female Complaints and
Diseases of Children
—A SPECIALTY.

OFFICE—With Dr. F. W. Melchers, one doo north of Larimer's Livery stable. 7-31-96

County Text-Book Depository

AND

Exchange.

We have been appointed by the State and will be the only Depository and Exchange in the county.

We propose to keep a full stock of books constantly on hand, also

A Complete Stock of School Supplies

☞**AT LOWEST PRICES.**

City Drug Store.

A full stock of drugs and all articles of the trade always in stock.

Prescriptions carefully compounded....

PECKHAM & JENKINS.

WALL PAPERS!

Make your selections at your own home, from large sample books containing

Over 500
New 1898
Patterns

New Floral, Silk, Cretonne, Chintz Delft, Denim and Stripe effects for Parlors and Bedrooms at 3c. to 10c. per roll.

Beautifull and high class Tapestry, Damask, Colonial, Embossed Leather, Louis XIV, Empire, Moorish, Rococo, Byzantine, Marie Antoinette Stripes, Rich Floral and Satin effects for Parlors, Dining Rooms and Halls at 10c., 12½c., 15c., 18c. and up to 60c. per roll.

Orders taken for a single room or for your whole house.

Let me give you figures on your bill.

CENTRAL DRUG STORE

D. B. HARSH.

Eye-sight
is
Precious.

Some people realize this too late. If you are troubled with headache or poor vision. Come and have your Eyes examined.

SPERLING...

FITS GLASSES
PROPERLY
AND AT
REASONABLE PRICES.

TELEPHONE 100.

....THE....

POOLE & CO.,

South Side Drug Store...

Is a good place to buy your

MEDICINES

And get your Prescriptions

FILLED CORRECTLY

—AT—

Reasonable Prices.

War with Spain

Is nothing compared with the War on Prices of **Groceries** at

SIMON'S FAIR.

18 lb Granulated Sugar for $1.00,
20 lb Light C Sugar for $1.00,
Lion Coffee per package 10c,
Jersey Coffee per package 10c,
Arbuckle's Coffee per package 10c,
Levering Coffee per package 10c,
2 lb good Bulk Coffee 25c,
3 lb good Blended Coffee 50c,
1 lb best Blended Coffee 24c,
4 lb best Mocha and Java Coffee $1.00,
Cinnamon per lb 20c,
Allspice per lb 20c,
Cloves per lb 20c,
Ginger per lb 20c,
Mustard per lb 20c,
Pepper per lb 20c,
1 lb full weight Soda 5c,
1 package Yeast Foam 4c,
6 boxes Pearline 25c,
1 lb Corn Starch 5c,
1 lb Silver Gloss Starch 8c,
1 lb Celluloid Starch 10c,
1 lb Lily Gloss Starch 6c,
1 lb Faultless Starch 9c,
1 package Rising Sun Stove Polish 7c,
3 boxes Lewis Lye 25c,
4 boxes Greenwich Lye 25c,
36 boxes Parlor Matches 25c,
1 2-oz Bottle Lemon Extract 3c,
1 2-oz Bottle Vanilla Extract 4c,
2 boxes Hard Wood Toothpicks 5c,
5 doz Clothes Pins 5c,
1 bbl No 1 Kansas Salt $1.18,
12 sacks No 1 Table Salt 25c,

1 lb 16-oz Dr. Prices Baking Powder 39c,
1 lb Simon's Fair Baking Powder 15c,
This powder we have made expressly for us and we warrant it to be equal to any or money refunded.
1 lb Bulk Baking Powder 20c,
This is no Cheap John powder but a good one.

Canned Goods.

3 3-lb cans best Tomatoes 25c,
3 3-lb cans Vinton Corn 25c,
2 3-lb cans California Apricots 25c,
2 3-lb cans California Muscat Grapes 25c
2 3-lb cans California Peaches 25c,
2 3-lb cans California Pears 25c,
2 3-lb cans California Egg Plums 25c,
3 2-lb cans Seletz Bay Salmon 25c,
2 2-lb cans Columbia River Salmon 35c,
3 2-lb cans Early June Peas 25c,
5 2-lb cans Lima Beans 35c,
2 3-lb cans California Black Cherries 45c
2 2-lb cans Cove Oysters 25c,
2 2-lb cans Sheepshead Oysters 35c,
5 2-lb cans Raspberries 40c,
5 2-lb cans Blackberries 40c,
2 2-lb cans Strawberries 25c,
5 2-lb cans Gooseberries 35c,
6 cans Oil Sardines 25c,
4 cans Mustard Sardines 25c.

Dried Fruits.

4 lb 3 Crown Raisins 25c,
2½ lb California Dried Peaches 25c,
2 lb California Dried Pears 25c,
1 lb California Dried Apricots 10c,

3 lb California best Prunes 25c,
20 lb California Prunes $1.00,
1 doz good Lemons 15c,
1 doz good Oranges 15c,
10 lb Navy Beans 25c,
10 lb Rolled Oats 25c,
10 lb Dried Peas 25c,
15 lb best Rice $1.00,
16 lb Hominy 25c,
6 lb Lima Beans 25c,
1 lb best Gunpowder Tea 44c,
1 lb good Gunpowder Tea 27c,
1 lb best Sundried Japan Tea 44c,
1 lb best Uncolored Japan Tea 37c,
3 2-lb packages American Groats 20c,
2 2-lb packages Quail Oats 15c,
3 2-lb packages Flaked Rice 25c,
1 gallon best Syrup 30c,
1 gallon Sorghum 35c,
1 2-gallon Pail Syrup 49c,
1 15-lb Pail Jelly 39c,
1 kit White Fish 53c,
1 keg Imported Holland Herring for $1.
1 kit American Herring 75c.

Miscellaneous.

1 lb H. S. Tobacco 40c,
1 lb Star Tobacco 40c,
1 lb Battle Axe Tobacco 25c,
1 lb O. S. Tobacco 19c,
1 lb On Time Tobacco 19c,
1 gallon best Cider Vinegar 15c,
15 bars Olive Soap 25c,
12 bars Nugget Soap 25c,
10 bars Olivette 25c,
9 bars Cudahys Diamond C Soap 25c,
9 bars Lenox Soap 25c,

We have purchased a Car of Choice Northern Grown Seed Potatoes. Be sure to get our Prices before you buy your Seed.

We have the Exclusive Sale in Seneca of the

....Flour — Celebrated Salina Flour.

It has no Superior and very few Equals. We buy it in large quantities and are prepared to give you BETTER PRICES than any other firm in Nemaha County. We sell under a positive guarantee that if it does not give entire satisfaction we will refund the purchase price. Come in and get our prices before you buy.

The Brands are - - Emperor, $1.28 per Sack
Queen, 1.23 " "

Yours Respectfully, **SIMON'S FAIR,**

Highest market price paid for country produce.

Seneca, Kansas,

97

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

98

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ________ Phone: (___) _____ - ________

_____ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person _____Renewal

_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person _____New

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 10
Seneca, KS 66538

D

Membership expires: June 1998
Mary Steinlage February
Route 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Number 62

MAY 1998

Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

PRESIDENT: Lillian Engelken (99) 336-3160
VICEPRESIDENT: Eugene Visser (98) 868-2398
SECRETARY: Marcia Philbrick (98) 336-3645
TREASURER: Carol Steinlage (00)
Alan Ward (00) 857-3760
Francis Davis (00) 866-5288
Naomi Turner (00) 336-2720
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John Harter (99) 336-3925
Roland Cordon (98) 868-2736
Marguerite Blaylock (99) 336-2524
Joyce Olberding (99) 336-3334

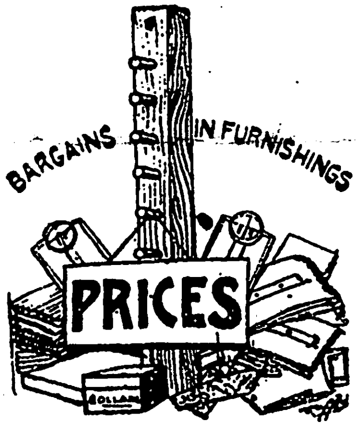
JUNE DINNER MEETING

Next Sunday, June 7 is the dinner meeting. Reservations need called in immediately. This dinner meeting will be in Seneca at Valentino's at 6:30 pm.

The highlight of the evening will be a program given by Arlene Feldmann Jauken of Peru, NE. She has written a book, *The Moccasin Speaks*, about her great-grandmother and her great-grandmother's three sisters. These young girls were taken by the Cheyenne Indians after the killing of their parents. Also killed were two sisters and a brother. This incident happened in western Kansas in 1874.

Arlene has the moccasin her great-grandmother wore. She also has a lot of pictures and other articles that she exhibits. She will be telling about her book. Her story includes the German girls, the Indians, the dog soldiers of the Indians, the military leaders at Fort Leavenworth, and the Buffalo Soldiers. The Buffalo Soldiers helped the little girls. Arlene has taken all the facts and blended them into a very informative and sensitive story about her great-

Several Pegs Lower.



It don't matter what you need in Furnishings, whether it is Shirts, Ties, Gloves, Suspenders, Underwear, Shoes, Hats, Sweaters, or Collars, you'll always find them in our stock strictly up-to-date in style, the very best in quality, and we always guarantee the price right. We would be glad to show you.

THE MODEL. **O. N. MAGEE.**

grandmother Sophia, Sophia's sisters and the Indians.

If you would like to attend and hear Arlene's story, please call Lillian Engelken to make your reservation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's renewal time. Yes, another year has almost passed. By the time you receive this last newsletter of 97-98, it will be June. Unless you are a life member, your membership will be expiring with this issue of the **Pioneer Press**. Please check your mailing label for the expiration of your membership. If you find your membership expiring, please use the form on page 6 for renewal purposes. I am looking forward at seeing all of our current members in our next membership year.

HISTORIC CAMPOUT IN JUNE

Information has been received from emigrant re-enactor Yvonne Larson that a campout will occur this summer near Alcove Spring in Marshall County. Yvonne had her wagon and displays at our Heritage Day in October a few years ago.

Advertised as Alcove Spring Campout, this event is slated to happen June 13-14, 1998. Two camps are being organized: a 19th century encampment and a separate modern camp. Both camps will be in close proximity to Alcove Spring. Alcove Spring is probably best known as an Oregon Trail site. The Alcove Spring Preservation Society has been working on upgrading the site. The site is also famous as the final resting ground of Sarah Keyes, a member of the Donner Party. Although the exact location of the Keyes gravesite has not been pinpointed, the KANZA Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association has found and mapped swales in the vicinity.

For more information of the activities of this weekend or if you would like to be a camper, please contact Yvonne Larson at 785-363-2365.

GRAND OPENING

AT

THE LEADER.

MAIN STREET. SENECA, KANSAS.

Friday, January 28th,

1200 Pairs Sample Shoes

In Babies', Misses', Boys', Women's and Men's, including Gents' Boots, that we will sell at exactly wholesale price. These goods will be on sale for one week from the 28th. If in need of a pair of Shoes or not, you cannot miss this chance.

Also Special Sale on Blankets and Winter Underwear,

and Duck Coats These are all new goods and will sell them at a big discount. We have just received a large shipment of Prints and Ginghams. They are most beautiful, and you cannot help buying some if you see them.

Don't forget the day—FRIDAY, JANUARY 28.

J. J. BUSER.

MONEY TO LOAN!

An unlimited supply of money to loan on farm security. I can offer you the best rates and terms. My loans are not sold or assigned. Call on me before placing your loan.

W. W. WILSON,

Office with Walters & Breeding,
over South Side Grocery Store.

Seneca, Kansa

RAILROAD MAP

The following was located when searching for Nemaha County maps at the Center for Historical Research at Topeka, KS. The map was made by the Saint Joseph and Denver City Railroad Company. As transcribed from the map:

Executive Office
Topeka, Kansas
December 13th 1870

I James M. Harvey Governor of the State of Kansas do hereby certify, that this plat or map of the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad has been duly filed in my office by the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad Company a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kansas. And shows that portion of the said Railroad commencing at the Sixtieth mile post on said road counting from said town of Elwood. I farther certify that said portion of said road makes one section of ten consecutive miles; that I have examined the same, and that it has been completed in a good substantial and workmanlike manner as a first class railroad as reguired by the act of Congress entitled "An Act for a grant of lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Northern Kansas Railroad and Telegraph Approved July 23, 1866 granting lands to the said Railroad Company. And I do farther certify that said section of ten consecutive miles makes with the sections here to fore to wit on the 30th day of July AD 1870 certified by me to have been completed a continuous section of seventy consecutive miles counting from said town of Elwood westward. I farther certify that said section of ten consecutive miles was completed as aforesaid in the month of Aug 1870.

In testimony where of I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Kansas. Done at the city of Topeka in said state this 13th day of December AD 1870.

__________Governor

Attest

__________Secretary of State

SUMMER, with its out-door sports and pastimes has gone by and cold, cheerless winter is at hand and

THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE

Now turns her attention to the winter home—how to make it more beautiful—how to make it more comfortable—how to do all this in the easiest way at the least expense. No one contemplating furnishing a home should overlook our store.

We Have Placed on Sale

The Largest and
most varied assortment of

Bridge Beach, Thos. White, and Buck

Cook Stoves,
Ranges,
Heaters and
Base Burners,

At Prices that Startles Competition.

Our stock is not excelled in Northern Kansas for Quality, Assortment or Price.

Wagons and Buggies AT THE LOWEST PRICES EVER MADE.

A. L. L. SCOVILLE.

As you read this you gained the flavor of the governor's office paperwork of that historic time with regard to railroad building and laws at the time. Also, the spelling was kept as found on the original document. The 70th mile would have been east of Seneca as the 80th milepost was 3 miles west of Seneca. The 80th was dated Sep 1870 and the 90th mile going into Marshall Co. was dated Nov 1870.

RESCUED FROM INDIANS

Contributed by Scott Suther

Editor: a couple of years ago Scott sent me a package of articles he had photocopied from Nemaha County newspapers. I remembered seeing his "GREAT STORY!" comment and it seems to tie directly to the June dinner meeting program. The following is quoted from the December 16, 1892 issue of the Wetmore Spectator. Thanks Scott.

Here is a true story. The real characters, that is the four captives, are personally known to many of the readers of The SPECTATOR. It is about the four Germain girls, captured by Indians in Texas, and rescued by government troops in Kansas. Our local readers will more readily remember them as the family raised by Pat Corney of Granada township. Corney was blacksmith at Fort Leavenworth, and sometime after the rescue of the four white children he was made their guardian. Twelve years ago Mr. Corney removed from Leavenworth to this county brought the girls with him, and settled on Wolfley creek six miles from Wetmore. The government provided for the girls until they became of age and then gave them $25,000 as stated in th[illegible] narrator's story.

(To not give away the story, several lines skipped, and now quoting again)

The story of the event of the rescue was published in last Sunday's Kansas City Journal, as told by "Uncle Jimmie" Cannon, who was at the time acting as government interpreter in Kansas and who is not the only Inspector and interpreter left on the active service list of the war department. "Uncle Jimmie" says:

Scott also included copy from the Tribune of March 25, 1893. This article had a letter from Bert E. Weed, Late 6th U.S. Cavalry. A third multi-column article appeared in the March 24, 1893 Wetmore Spectator. The next paragraph is quoted to leave you in suspense until we meet Arlene at the dinner meeting on June 7:

Now, it had never entered my mind to write a sketch of our captivity until some time ago, when some o[illegible] undertook to give a sketch of the German girls, and some things were represented as being very different from what they really were. My friends have insisted on my writing this sketch.—Catherine E. Swerdfeger, the oldest of the German girls.

American Historical Society
of Germans from Russia
invites you to
The 30th Jubilee!!
June 17-21, 1998
Broadview Hotel
Wichita, Kansas

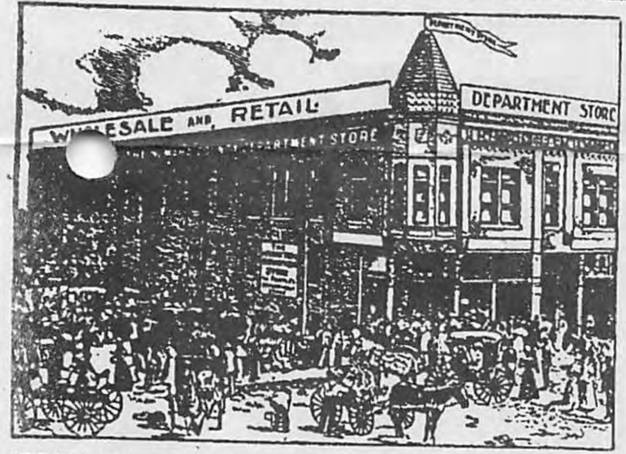
For information, contact: AHSGR, 631 'D' Street, Lincoln, NE, 68502-1199, (402) 474-3363 or ahsgr@aol.com or see our web site: www.ahsgr.org/1998conv.html

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

This issue of our quarterly marks four years of Michael Philbrick's service as editor. Mike took over the job as editor with the August 1994 issue. Mike informed the board last fall that the May 1998 issue would be his last as editor. Mike will be handing the editorial responsibilities back to Pauline Esslinger. Pauline has volunteered to retake the job as editor. She became the editor after the Donna Kirk's death. Please welcome Pauline back as our editor. Better yet, why not volunteer to conduct and writeup an interview, do some historical research, make a suggestion, or volunteer your energies to help so the writing of articles of our society quarterly doesn't have to be a one person task.

The advertisements found throughout this issue came from 1898 newspapers.

Going Out of Business



W. H. COLEMAN'S

Department Store,

SENECA, KANSAS.

Owing to other and more important business, we are compelled to give up our Seneca store, much as we regret to leave so nice and rapidly growing trade, we are compelled to do so, and at the **Very Great Sacrifice of**

50 Cents on the Dollar

FOR OUR GOODS.

We have sold our lease and fixtures and signed agreement to vacate building on or before March 1, 1898, and we will now offer our entire Stock of Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Books, Stationery, Lamps, Queensware and in fact everything without reserve or regard to cost. Everything must be sold in twenty nine days and you will now find in our stock **the Greatest Line of Bargains ever offered.**

Spellin Skule.

At the Universalist church, Friday evening, March 11th. Everybody invited.

Best L L Muslin 3 3-4 cents on Saturday and Monday at Vincent's Muslin Sale.

Wanted to Buy:

Fat Horses and Mules, age five to nine years.

4tf JOHN H. MYERS,
Liveryman.

98

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

99

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ________ Phone: (___) _____ - ________

______ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person ______Renewal

______ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person ______New

______ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 10
Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 1998
Mary Steinlage
Route 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

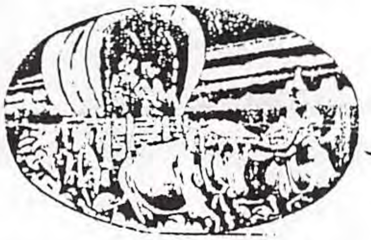
NUMBER 63

AUGUST 1998

PRESIDENT: Alan Ward 857-3760 (00)
VICEPRESIDENT: Lillian Engelken 336-3160 (99)
Secretary: Ardella Becker 868-3545 (01)
TREASURER: Carol Steinlage 857-3738(00)
Eugene Visser 868-2398 (01)
Francis Davis 866-5288 (00)
John Harter 336-3925 (99)
Caryl Schell 868-2861 (01)
Naomi Turner 336-2720 (00)
Marguerite Blaylock 336-2524 (99)
Joyce Olberding 336-3334 (99)
Barbara Chilson 336-6221 (01)

Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

Step Back in Time With Us



HERITAGE DAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1998
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
6th & NEMAHA SENECA, KS

The Historical Society is planning their 22 Annual Open House. Volunteers are needed and items are needed for the Country Store. Pies are welcome for the lunch stand again this year. We are anticipating some new activities and the return of some favorites from last year. Come, join us for a fun day, good lunch and exciting entertainment!!!!!

The Nemaha County Historical Society met at Valentino's, Seneca, for their annual dinner meeting, June 7, 1998. There were 53 members and guests enjoying the delicious roast beef dinner. Leslie Droge gave the invocation.

Lillian Engelken opened the business meeting. In the absence of the treasurer, she gave the treasurer's report. Marcia Philbrick read the minutes of the last dinner meeting and the board meeting, they were approved.

The Historical Society will be in charge of the lunch stand at the Community Building, for the sales on June 14th and 20th. The Society appreciates all the donations and the ones who volunteer their time to help at these money-making projects, THANK YOU!!

Pauline Esslinger read the list of nominees for the board positions open this year. They are Ardella Becker, Corning, Barbara Chilson, Seneca, Carol Shell, Centralia, and Gene Visser, Goff. They were elected for a 3 year term. The reorganizational meeting will be June 16 at the museum.

The business meeting was adjourned. Lillian introduced Arlene Jauken, Peru, NE, who gave the program on the book she has written, about her great-grandmother. She called the book "The Moccasin Speaks" for the moccasin she has that her great-grandmother wore while she was captive of the Cheyenne Indians in 1874. There was a book published in the 1920's about their capture, but Arlene knew it didn't tell the whole story. She researched extensively thru the military records and the National Archives and wrote to Historical Societies and people who could help her gather her information.

Arlene has taken all these facts and blended them into a very informative and sensitive story. She tells a very moving story about the hardships the sisters endured during their ordeal, and how they recovered and their productive lives later, raising their families and living quiet lives.,

These books are on sale at the museum for $24.95, they'd make a great gift!!

NOTICE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

This mailing goes to 245 members of which 131 are paid.

READERS: Check the addresslabel to see if your dues are paid or if you still owe! IF the label reads 'Membership expires; July 1999 or LIFE' you ARE PAID up. A number of members routinely pay at 'Open House' in October. AFTER October, anyone NOT PAID will be delinguent, and their name removed from the mailing list.

THANK YOU, Dorothy Pearl Murphy

The Nemaha County Historical Society met June 16, 1998 at the museum in Seneca for their Reorganizational meeting. Board members present were Lillian Engelken, Marguerite Blaylock, Barbara Chilson, Ardella Becker, Carol Steinlage, Naomi Turner, Gene Visser and Caryl Schell, also present was Pauline Esslinger, reporter.

Lillian opened the meeting and declared a quorum. In the absence of the secretary, Pauline read the minutes of the last board meeting.

Lillian reported a donation was given to the museum in memory of Gladys Buser. The Historical Society gave a donation to a benefit for Judy Huschka, daughter of Joyce and Eldon Olberding, also a donation was given to the United Charities Fund.

Advertising tokens in different denominations were given to the museum in memory of Ed and Mary Boeding. They are from the Wempe and Huerter Dry Goods & Grocery Store (Department Store) located in Seneca long ago.

Leland Chilson is installing window tint on the windows upstairs to cut down the glare and to prevent fading of materials in the south rooms. Barbara is going to repaint the museum sign outside, as it has 'weathered'. Lillian made an assessment of all the museum keys and who has them.

Lillian read an acquisition and preservation article from the Brown County Historical Society By-Laws. A motion was made and approved to implement these conditions for our museum. They are: 1. All acquisitions shall contribute significantly to a clearer understanding of a particular event, custom, activity or personality. 2. Decisions regarding acquisitions are to be made by the curator. 3. Each acquisition is to be judged on the following criteria: a. Documented individual history (where, how and by whom used, validity), b. Physical character and condition. c. Nature of the period, episode or personality with which it is associated. d. Appropriateness as an addition to the Society's collection. e. Common sense. f. Undue duplication of articles will be avoided. 4. All acquisitions are to be in the form of a gift. A gift agreement is to be drawn up for each acquisition and will show that legal title to each item is transferred without condition or reservation to the Museum. All pertinent information shall be gathered with the acquisition. 5. No loans will be accepted with the exception of agreed-term loans of special exhibits for a specific purpose and for a length of time to be agreed upon in writing in advance. 6. Comprehensive records of acquisition will be established to provide for accuracy, safety and easy

---

REMINDER: Dinner meeting, September 13, 1998, at 6:30 pm, at the United Church of Christ, Centralia, KS, get your reservations in before SEPTEMBER 9 to a board member! SEE YOU THERE!!

accessibility.

The Historical Society had the lunch stand at the Boeding sale at the community building June 14th and it was a huge success. The Society has the lunch stand for the Vardy sale at the community building on June 20th, preparations were made for this project.

The Board elected the officers and set up the schedule of events for the coming year. The meeting was adjourned.

Friday, June 19, the Board reopened the Reorganizational meeting as the newly elected president declined the position due to family matters.

Attending were Lillian Engelken, Naomi Turner, Barbara Chilson, Carol Steinlage, Marguerite Blaylock, and Allan L. Ward, also Pauline Esslinger, PR. Lillian, Vice-President, declared a quorum, and Alan L. Ward was elected President.

OFFICERS for 1998-1999 will be, President: Alan L. Ward, Vice-President: Lillian Engelken, Secretary: Ardella Becker, Treasurer: Carol Steinlage. Society official newspaper: Courier-Tribune, Official depository for Society Funds: Citizens State Bank, APPOINTMENTS: Public relations (reporter), Pauline Esslinger, Obituary: Mary Steinlage, Scrapbook: Barbara Chilson, Curator: Joyce Olberding, Assistant curator, Barbara Chilson, Pioneer Press Editor: Pauline Esslinger, Membership: Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Building: Albert Winkler and Leland Chilson, Library/Labeling: Mary Steinlage, Historical sites: Board members, Lunch stand: Naomi Turner, Assistant, Pauline Esslinger.

All Board meetings at the Museum at 7:30 pm, unless notified otherwise. All dinner meetings at 6:30 pm at location specified, unless notified. Board meetings: August 18, 1998, November 10, 1998, February 9, 1999, May 11, 1999, Reorganization meeting, June 15, 1999.

Dinner meetings: September 13, 1998, United Church of Christ, Centralia, June 6, 1999, Seneca (location to be announced later) Open House: October 3, 1998, Soup dinner: March 11, 1999.

Plan to visit your museum this summer and see all the interesting additions and other new displays. You will be pleasantly surprised at all the different items there are. Looking for family history, there are some family genealogy books, plus old newspapers, county atlas, etc. in the Genealogy section downstairs, also obituaries and marriage affidavits are found in the office.

DECEASED MEMBERS: Grace Kelley, Centralia and George Steinmeier, Kansas City, MO. Our sympathy to their families.

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. met at the museum in Seneca August 18, 1998 with the following in attendance, Naomi Turner, Marguerite Blaylock, Carole Steinlage, Alan Ward, John Harter, Francis Davis, Gene Visser, Barbara Chilson, Caryl Schell, board members, AND Mary Steinlage and Pauline Esslinger. This was a regular business meeting.

Alan Ward, President, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. He passed out an agenda as a guideline for future meetings. It was adopted.

In the absence of the secretary, Barbara Chilson read the minutes of the reorganization and the executive meetings, they were approved as read.

Carol Steinlage presented the financial report as of June 30, 1998 and explained the receipts and expenditures.

Francis Davis reported on the Bancroft Museum. They had a successful 'fund raiser' consisting of a Blue Grass Jamboree, with Wal-Mart of Hiawatha matching their receipts. They are working on acquiring a caboose. The annual Bancroft picnic is coming up soon, be watching for the date.

Barbara Chilson reported the following in the museum. Albert Winkler came and installed tissue holders in the restrooms, the sun shades are installed in the upstairs windows (they will prevent sun fading in the rooms). She has organized the photos, etc. into plastic sheets and placed them in binders. Mary Steinlage has been relabeling items, where the labels have deteriorated. They have been going thru material and organizing the items and they found a folder of old obituaries written by Ray Ingalls.

Mary approached the board about purchasing plastic sheets to hold them. Then they will be placed in a binder to be placed in the genealogy room. A motion was made and approved for this project.

Barbara reported there needs to be some kind of insect control in the museum, to discourage insects from coming in and taking up residence. Also, there are several holes in the yard that need to be filled.

There has been a humidity problem in the Burger Annex this summer with all the humidity. A monitor and a dehumidifier were purchased and placed in the Annex to control this problem.

Barbara has resigned her position ~~at~~ AS hostess, but volunteers will keep the museum open until the Open House October 4th. We thank Barb for all the little 'extras' she did beyond her duties, it was appreciated!!

The 22nd Annual Open House will be October 4, 1998. Committees were set up and plans were discussed. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way contact a board member, Alan Ward, Lillian Engelken or Naomi Turner. We always appreciate your help. Naomi is chairman of the lunch stand and country store. The lunch stand will need pies and the country store will except all kinds of items you think will sell. We always have a wide selection of cakes, pies, cookies, jams, jellies, garden produce, nuts and popcorn.

The next dinner meeting will be September 13. at the United Church of Christ in Centralia, at 6:30pm. Reservations need to be placed by September 9th, call Alan Ward, Lillian Engelken or any other board member. Remember, if you make a reservation and cannot come, please call and cancel, otherwise you will need to pay for your meal.

Everyone is welcome, we will be looking for you!!

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Financial Report

Checking Account No. 309478

As of June 30, 1998

Balance on Hand, June 30, 1997			$ 3796.29
RECEIPTS			
Donations	$ 226.95		
Memberships	795.00		
Memorials (Reeva Allen, George Steinmeier, Bill Slack, Florence Ingalls, Gladys Buser)	370.00		
Institutional Grant	300.00		
Arlene Jaukins (Mocassin Speaks Books)	208.90		
Quilt	31.00		
Bancroft Preservation Association	65.00		
Dinner meeting meals	669.20		
Nemaha County Budget Funds	1000.00		
Donations (Open House)	70.00		
Interest	252.40		
Annual Soup Dinner	501.85		
Open House	1298.50		
Sales	1780.87		
Tennal Books	879.45		
Payroll Reimbursement (Harry Burger Acct)	679.49		
Sub-Total		$9128.61	
Total Receipts			$12924.90
EXPENDITURES			
Telephone	$ 375.58		
KPL	583.30		
Postage & Supplies	771.39		
Mowing	315.00		
Genealogical Society	125.00		
Insurance	1286.00		
Kansas Secretary of State	20.00		
Subscriptions	20.00		
Dinner meeting meals	640.62		
Lunch Stand (Open House)	445.06		
Advertisement	180.91		
Kansas Museum Association	25.00		
Oregon California Trails Association	35.00		
Sales/Auctions	555.69		
Kansas Council Genealogical Society	10.00		
Miscellaneous (Florist, Benefits)	62.82		
Payroll	679.69		
Arlene Jaukins (Mocassin Speaks)	44.95		
Higgins Book Company (Tennal Books)	695.07		
Maintenance	277.50		
Sub-Total		$7148.58	
Balance on Hand, June 30, 1998			$5776.

JESSE JAMES SLEPT HERE?

Ninety seven years ago, legendary outlaw Jesse James was posing as a cattle buyer, under the alias, Tom Howard, and was living with his wife and children in a hilltop home overlooking St. Joseph, Missouri.

April 3, 1882, Jesse met with two former gang members, brothers Robert and Charles Ford, to discuss plans for robbing the Platte County Bank. After breakfast, the unarmed James finished reading a newspaper account of a former gang member's confession implicating brother, Frank, and him in a series of robberies. He pushed away from the table and moved to straighten a picture hanging on the wall.

While his back was turned, Robert Ford drew his revolver and fired several shots,killing James instantly. Ford went on to claim the ,000 bounty offered by the State of Missouri, but his act ended one of the most infamous epics in American folklore: the life and times of Jesse James.

The James Gang is credited with more than 20 robberies and at least seven murders from Minnesota to Alabama and from Kentucky to Kansas. Most , however, were in Missouri and caused the gang to frequently wander through Northeast Kansas seeking refuge.

At least one of the sites said to have been visited by the James Gang is now known as the Lovell Tupa farm, a few miles north and west of Bern.

The limestone house is thought to have been built in the 1860's or 1870's, and belonged to early area settlers Mr. and Mrs. William Houser. According to stories handed down through generations, James and his men arrived on horseback one evening and asked for a place to spend the night. They preferred a room with a window facing the road, but declined breakfast saying they would be gone by dawn.

When the Housers awoke, the men had left, leaving a cash payment on the kitchen table.

A sheriff and posse later arrived and said they were in pursuit of Jesse James and his gang.

Another story managing to survive the 100 year generational span, tells how the gang stopped for meals near the former "Miles Ranch" 3 miles northeast of the "Four Mile Church." When they left, a woman collecting the dishes found a $10 bill under each plate.

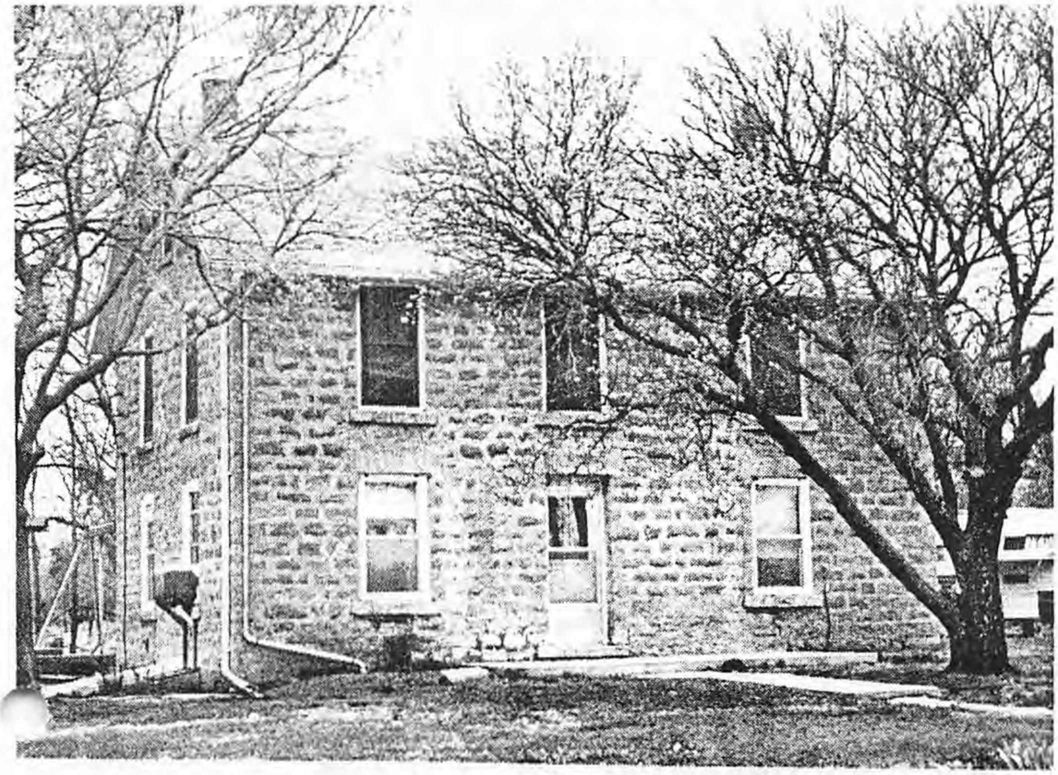
The James Gang was said to have felt welcome in the area and often passed through the "Miles Ranch" area.

James fared well in the Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas borders countryside since area farmers generally favored the confederate cause and opposed the federal troops that had so often accused and harrassed them for their pro-Southern leanings.

James, at age 17, had joined a killing band of Confederate guerillas headed by "Bloody" Bill Anderson. At the war's end, Confederate soldiers were granted amnesty, but guerilla forces were still hunted and killed by federal troops.

In 1865 James was leading a band of irregulars under a flag of truce to surrender at Lexington, Missouri. Federal troops attacked the group (which included Frank James and Cole Younger) and critically wounded Jesse James in the chest. He escaped into the brush and was eventually found and returned home by a nearby farmer.

February 13, 1866, a gang of 10 men rode into Liberty, Missouri and took $60,000 from the Clay County Savings Bank. It was the beginning. Jesse James was declared an outlaw and evaded capture until his death 16 violent years later.



This house

is now

owned by the

Haverkamp Family

Legend claims that Jesse James and his gang of outlaws once spent the night in this rural Bern home now owned by Lovell Tupa.

98 **NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 99

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________________

Zip + 4: __________ - ______ Phone: (___) _____ - ______

_____ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person _____Renewal

_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person _____New

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 10
Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 1999

Mary Steinlage
Route 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

8-31-98

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 64

NOV-DEC 1998

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Naomi Turner 336-2720 (00)
Marguerite Blaylock 336-2524 (99)
Joyce Olberding 336-3334 (99)
Barbara Chilson 336-6221 (01)

Membership
July 1 to June 30
$5.00

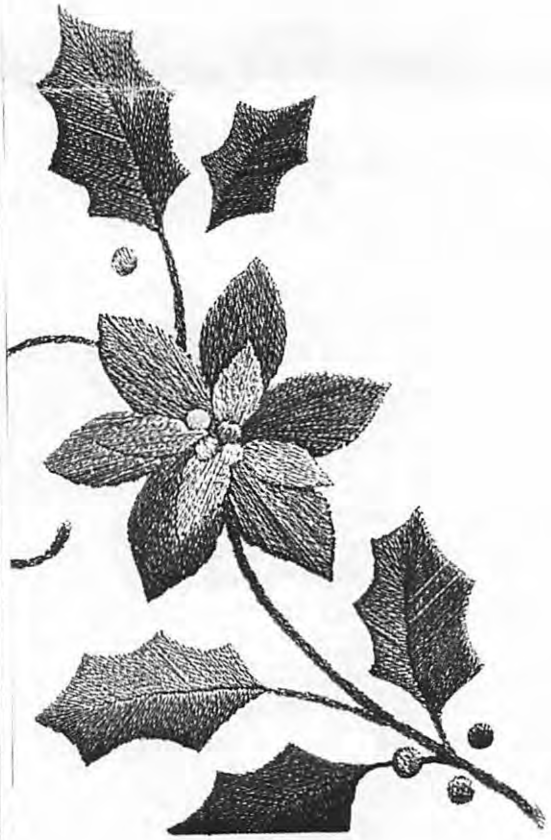
Small Towns Are The Life

You know you are in a small town when . . .

- *Every sport is played on dirt.*
- *Third Street is on the edge of town.*
- *The runway of the airport is terraced.*
- *You are run off main street by a combine.*
- *The biggest business in town sells farm machinery.*
- *The polka is more popular than disco on Saturday night.*
- *You miss a Sunday at Church and receive get-well cards.*
- *You dial a wrong number and talk for 15 minutes anyway.*
- *You write a check on the wrong bank and it covers for you.*
- *The pickups on main street outnumber the cars three-to-one.*
- *You don't use your turn signal because everyone knows where you are going.*
- *You can't walk for exercise because every car that passes offers you a ride.*
- *You drive into a ditch five miles out of town and word gets back to town before you do.*
- *You are born on June 13th and your family receives gifts from the local merchants because you are the first baby of the year.*
- *Someone asks how you feel, then listens to what you say.*

Thank God for small towns . . .
and the people who live in them.

—Author Unknown



THE NEMAHA COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Upon the removal of the County Seat to Seneca, the town company, in accordance with an earlier agreement, erected a two-story building, near corner of Main and Buffalo Sts, the first floor was used for meeting purposes of every description, second floor by the County Officers. Byron Sherry, Co. Clerk, only one to be found, other officers were engaged in other than official business, with little to attend to as Nemaha was attached to Brown Co. for judicial purposes, and court held, until 1861, in Hiawatha.

In December, 1861, after a religious meeting had closed and about two, the next morning , it was discovered to be on fire and by three oclock was completely destroyed, probably work of an incendiary.

The Town Company quickly arranged with Board of Commissioners for the erection of a one-story building at corner of Main and Castle Sts. First occupied by Judge A.H.Horton, and first term of District Court held at the time. County officers did not occupy the building, which was one small room, but remained at different stores and offices about town.

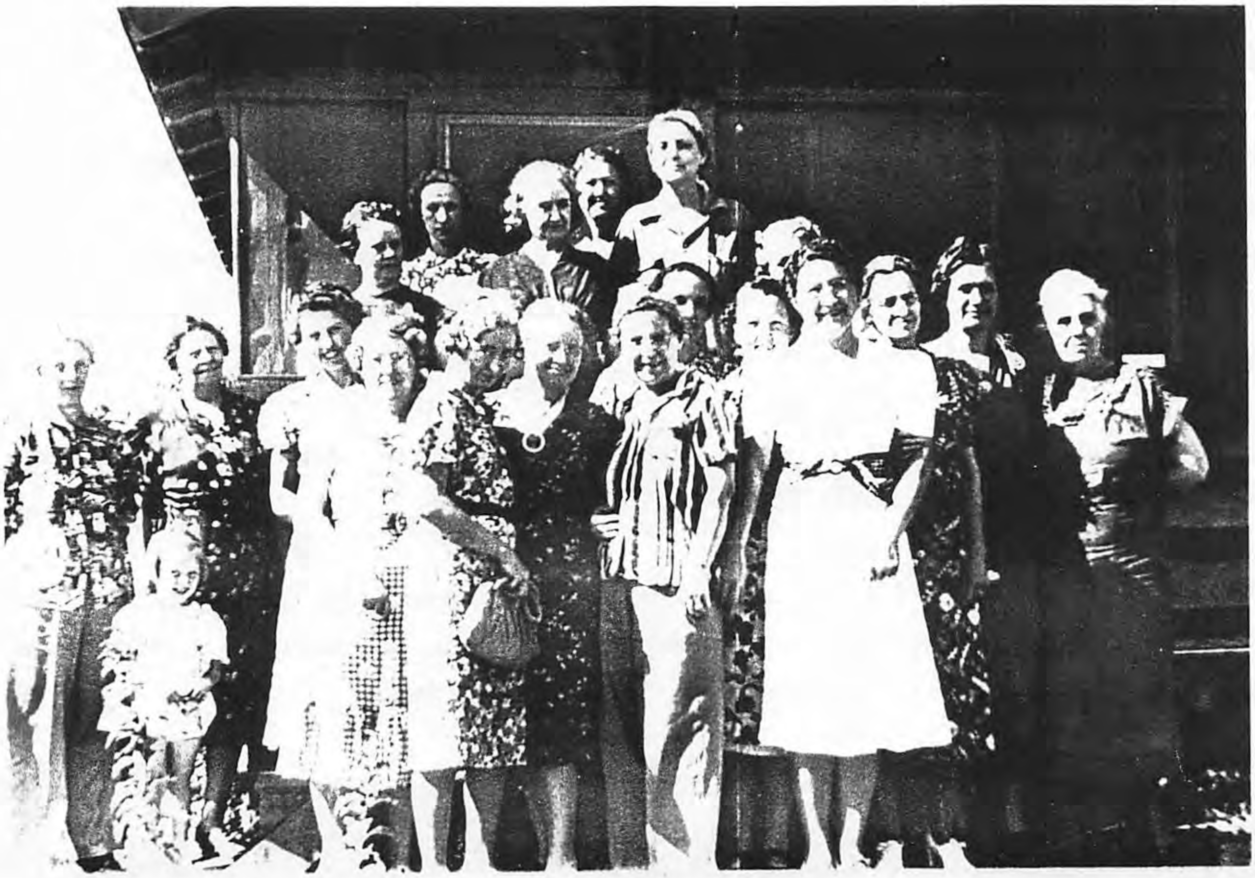
In January, 1871, an order was passed by the board, locating all of the Board, except Treasurer, in second story of Post Office block. The Treas. office remained where it had been on Main and Court ST. and court was held elsewhere, the building of 1861 having been abandoned.

In the meantime, the city lots owned by the county had been sold, the last of them in August, 1870, netting to the court house fund the sum of $ 17,473. 83. The question of building a court house was submitted to the people, carried by a majority of 289, and on March 30th, 1871, a contract for its erection was entered into with James A. Storm, of St. Joseph. On April 30th, 1871, ground was broken for it, BY Major Sargent, of Seneca, and in 1872, the building, 57x80 feet ninety-six feet in height, from the basement to the top of the tower of brick, with sawed stone trimmings, was completed. It cost $29,172.68.

On March 4th, 1876, fire was discovered in the southeast attic jury room, and not withstanding the strenous efforts of the citizens, the building was totally destroyed. The books and papers, with the exception of most of those in the superintendents office, and the records of surveys prior to 1872, in the Surveyors office were saved. The fire was supposed to result from children playing with matches. The offices were temporarily located, those of the Clerk, Register of Deeds and Treasurer in the Universalist Church building, the others in various parts of the city.

The insurance on the buildings amounting to $20,000, being promptly paid, the commissioners promptly advertised for bids, awarding the contract for the erection of a duplicate structure to J.A.McGonigle of Leavenworth. The new edifice, in almost every respect similar to the previous one, was completed in June 1877, at a cost of $20,138.47. The first floor divided by a wide hall, contains the various county offices, the second for court purposes. The grounds surrounding building comprising an entire city block, was well fenced, and planted with trees.

Author Unknown



A Ladies Club, circa 1940 or 1950's. Friends of Clara Wempe, Seneca, KS (Mother of Fr. Richard Wempe) Identified are: Mrs Clare Wempe, Mrs Helen Mathews, Mrs Jean Kongs and Mrs Jack Houston.

If anyone knows the name of the group, the year or any of the other ladies in the picture, please let us know.

Picture donated to the museum by Fr. Richard Wempe, Seneca

This mailing of the "Pioneer Press" goes to 156 members of the Historical Society and 72 members of the Genealogy Society. Of the Historical Society members, 40 are Life Members. the Genealogy Society members come from 15 states and Switzerland. The "Pioneer Press" is also sent 'gratis' to 10 other Historical and Genealogy Societies.

The Nemaha County Historical Society Board met at the museum in Seneca on November 10, 1998 with the following in attendance. Carole Steinlage Naomi Turner, Lillian Engelken, Barbara Chilson, Ardella Becker, Joyce Olberding, Alan Ward, Gene Visser, Leland Chilson and Pauline Esslinger.

President Alan Ward opened the meeting and passed out the evenings agenda. He led the group in the Flag Salute. Ardella read the minutes of the last meeting, they were approved with one addition. Carole gave the treasurers report, and the report on the Open House in October and the Election Day Lunch. The report was approved as read.

At the Open House, chances were sold for the Pot O' Gold and the afghan, they were both won by Carole Steinlage.

Erecting a case around the Burger display to protect the clothing, etc. was discussed. A case was seen in a museum in Weston, MO, similar to one needed in the Annex, Alan appointed Joyce to pursue this idea.

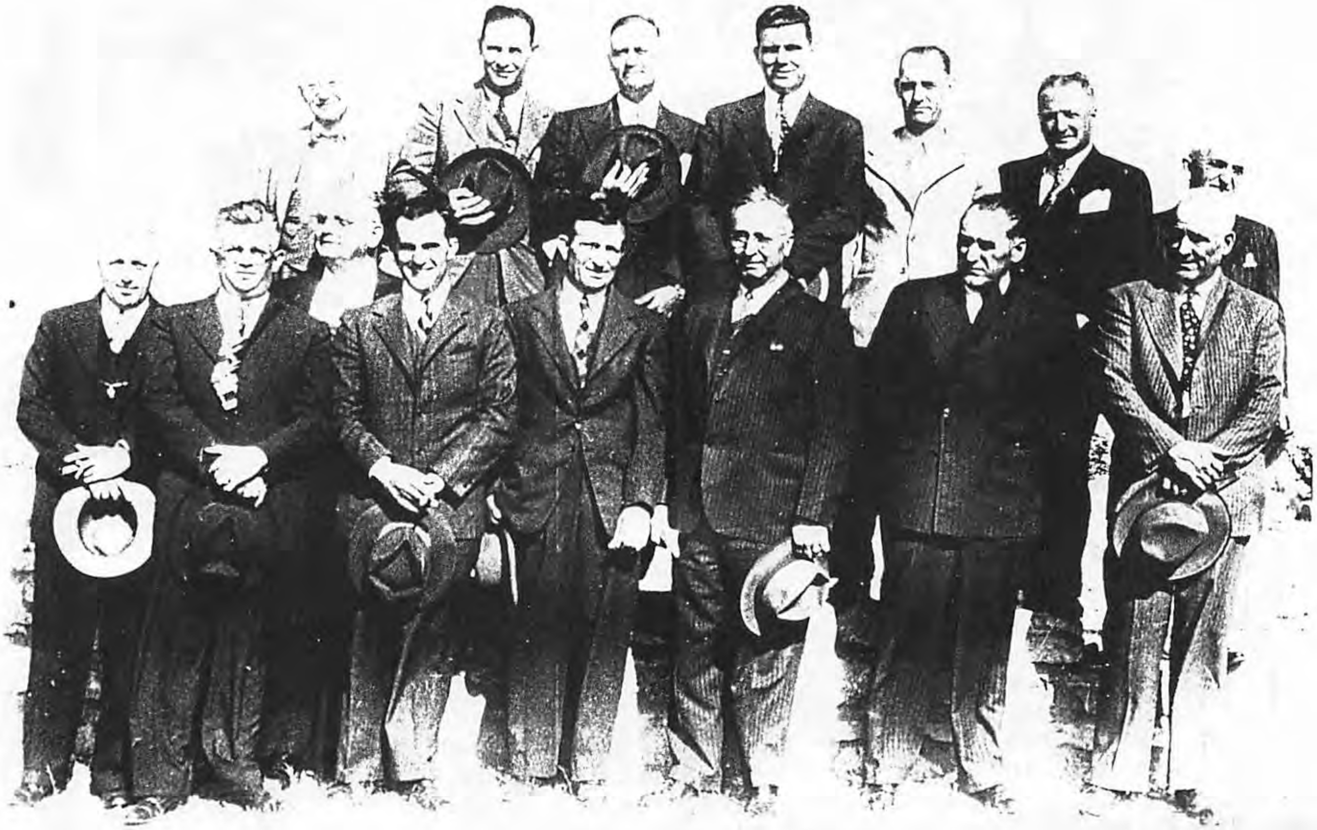
Alan appointed a committee to approach Wal-Mart about their grants, and to see if the Historical Society is eligible to apply for one.

Several other projects were discussed and tabled for further information. Dorothy Pearl Murphy researched the jail history to get it placed on the National Historical Registrar and with all her work it wasn't approved. The National Historical Registrar committee suggested it be rewritten. Alan contacted the County Clerk, and learned the name of someone who can help with this. Alan also got the name of someone who can help with writing grants.The Society received a $300.00 grant to install window film and shades last summer. The film helps keep the sunlight from fading items in the rooms.

Alan announced there will be a seminar for the Preservation of Historical or Museum items in Topeka, if anyone on the board would like to go.

The Society purchased a freezer after the Open House, as one was needed. The expenditure was approved.

The next Board meeting will be next year on February 9, 1999, with a dinner meeting scheduled on March 7, 1999 and the Soup Dinner on March 11, 1999. Details will be in the Pioneer Press at that time. There will be NO dinner meeting in November or December.



The ROTARY in Seneca about 1950's
(Donated by Fr Richard Wempe, Seneca)

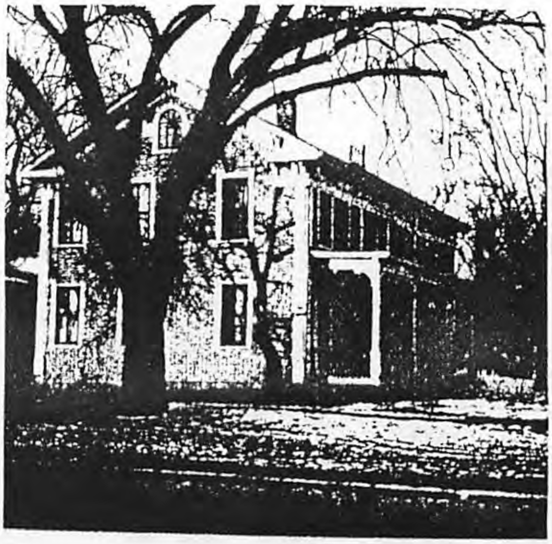
1910

St. Peter and Paul auditorium was built in 1910. It was built by home labor, John Y. Benfer was the architect, J.J. Vorhes building contractor and Henry Helser cement worker.

October 26, 1910

St. Peter and Paul auditorium was dedicated by Bishop Lillis.

Merry Christmas!



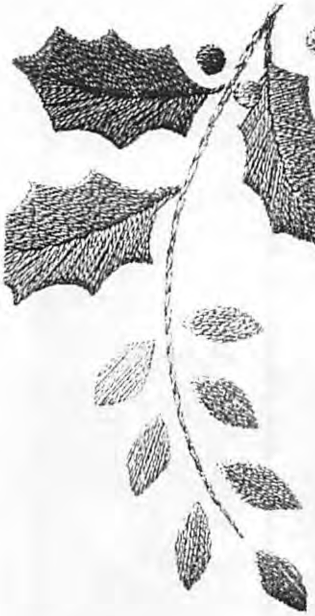
FIRST SCHOOL STILL STANDS

School was first held in the fall of 1858 in Seneca. It was held in one room of the building known as Smith's Hotel, which still stands today on the north side of main street, second house from the east on the 700 block. It was also a way station on the Pony Express route in the early 1860's as indicated by the marker on the corner of the house and is 106 years old. It was orginally located on the present A&I corner. The first schoolteacher in Seneca was Miss Addie Smith, great-aunt of Amos Smith, present day citizen.

For several years after 1858, the school was in the court room of the small frame court house. The first courthouse was a small two-story built near the corner of Main and Buffalo (now 8th street) which burned a year after it was built and a one-story small frame building was built between Main and Castle on 8th.

In 1864, the school board of District 11, let a contract to build a 24x50 one-story brick building on the site of the present Catholic Church at a cost of $1700. In 1869, this school became inadequate and was sold to the Catholic Society and Sts. Peter and Paul's parish was formed. A stone building 45x56 1/2 feet, two stories high with pennacle and bell tower 66 feet high was then erected on the site of the present high school building. In 1879, an addition was built to the stone building 30x60 feet in size and of the same height and design. The present high school building replaced this building in 1890.

(Reprinted from the Seneca Public High 'Tiger')



1910

August:

W.E. Fuller, police judge presented the city with a drinking fountain and it was set up at the Wempe and Huerter corner.

1910

Herman Ensing put a drinking fountain at the foot of Main Street.

Dorothy Pearl Murphy found these 'Early Postoffices of Nemaha Co.' in "Pioneer Trails" by Maurice Werner. (Several of these have now closed)

year statr	Town or P.O.	Year ended	1st postmaster
1858	Albany	1882	John Shumway
1859	America (City)	1932	Geo. Handel
1858	Ash Point	1870	Horace Bemus
1880	Baileyville		George Rasp
1891	Bancroft	1941	James Wilcox
1887	Basel	1888	Andrew Herold
1888	Bern		Jno. Baker
1887	Berwick	1937	Charles Dixon
1878	Brough	1880	David Mercer
1857	Capioma	1906	David Magill
1858	Central City	1863	Hiram Lanham
1860	Centralia		Floyd Baker
1858	Clear Creek	1900	Richard Bunker
1887	Collins	1887	Andrew Herold
1868	Corning		Edward Kepler
1871	Deanville	1871	James Wanzer
1877	Dorcas	1882	Wm. Whitney
	Farmington		S27-1-12
1890	Fidelity	1892	Anton Wempe
1880	Goff ('s)		Chandler Abbott
1864	Granada	1906	Wm. Latson
1877	Hayes	1878	David Mercer
1888	Kelly		Abram Funk
1872	Lappin	1876	Patrick Kerens
1861	Lincoln	1868	Luther Jones
1864	Log Chain	1868	John Hazzard
	Locknane's		
1872	Lorain	1879	Emanuel Becker
1864	Neuchatel	1901	Alfred Bonjour
1876	Oneida		Patrick Kerens
	Ontario		
1856	Pleasant Spring	1864	David Locknane
1857	Powhatan	1867	Russell Newell
1895	Price	1906	Allen Hawkins
	Richland		
1855	Richmond	1859	James Thompson
1858	Sabetha		Arthur Williams
1883	St. Benedict	1902	Clemens Blocker
1858	Seneca		John E. Smith
1872	Silver Spring	1875	Rudolph Stauffer
1871	Sother	1878	Isaac Smith
1890	Swift	1895	Never operated
1896	Swifton	1898	William Swift
1885	Taylor (Rapids)	1890	Albert Kelly
1855	Urbana	1855	John Jett
1867	Wetmore		Asa Simpson
1881	Woodlawn	1906	Paul Challis
	Chard		
	Lehman		
	Lindon		
	Laramie Creek (Frogtown)		
	Pacific City		

Richard F. Burton Log 1860

A big 'THANK YOU' to those who helped keep the museum open this past summer. The volunteers were:

Marjorie Allison
Rosemary Holthaus
Mary Steinlage
Barbara Chilson
Lillian Engelken
Mary Lindeen
Joyce Olberding
Marguerite Blaylock
Darlene Huerter
Justin & Frances Rottinghaus
Pauline Esslinger
Grace Strathman
Lucille Wichman
Zita Bergman
Dorothy Hunninghake
Naomi Turner
Dorothy Pearl Murphy

ALSO, a big THANK YOU to all those who helped at our food stands at the sales, the open house and any other way.

Thanksgiving - Then and Now

......They offered thanks-those Pilgrims strong!
The winter had been cruel and long
But then came spring and summertime
And autumn brought a harvest fine.
And so they knelt, heart-deep in praise
In gratitude for better days.

We offer thanks-we space-age sons-
For blessings shared by everyone,
For freedoms which we still enjoy,
For faith no power can destroy.
Today, we kneel in praise to Thee
For keeping our great nation free!

-Nathanael Olson
(Montana Newsletter)

(Reprinted from the Nebraska Mayflower Society 'Pilgrim News')

Margaret Kuester's "Centennial for Kelly Kansas Post Office" reads
First Postmaster about 1886, M. R. Brown.

PIONEER PRESS 1998

98

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

99

Name: ______________________________

Address: ______________________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ______ Phone: (___) _____ - ______

_____ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person _____Renewal

_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person _____New

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to **Nemaha County Historical Society** and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 10
Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 1999

Mary Steinlage
Route 3, Box 12
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

12-8 15

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 67
FEBRUARY-MARCH 00

PRESIDENT:	Alan Ward	857-3760	(00)
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334	(02)
SECRETARY:	Barbara Chilson	336-6221	(01)
TREASURER:	Ardella Becker	868-3545	(01)
	Carol Steinlage	857-3738	(00)
	Francis Davis	866-5288	(00)
	Naomi Turner	336-2720	(00)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(01)
	Caryl Schell	868-2861	(01)
	Ray Hunninghake	336-3790	(02)
	Jeriann Rethman	336-3421	(02)
	John Rethman	336-3421	(02)

The Nemaha County Historical Society board members met February 15, 2000 in the Burger Annex at the museum. Attending were Allan Ward, Ray Hunninghake, Francis Davis and Ardella Becker, also Lillian Engelken and Pauline Esslinger.

Allan opened the meeting and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ardella gave the treasurer's report. Without a quorum, business was tabled for the next meeting.

The Society is in charge of the lunch stand at the February 27 sale and the March 12 sale at the Community Building. This was discussed. Then the Soup Lunch which will be held March 16th in the Annex at the museum was discussed. Members will be asked to donate pies to these events, and volunteers to help are also appreciated.

Lillian, Curator, reported she and Clarence went to Topeka and picked up the old Seneca newspapers the KS Historical Society gave back to Seneca. These papers are all on microfilm at the Historical Society in Topeka, they needed the room in their warehouse, so are giving papers back to the towns.

The new Memorial plaque has been installed in the office. Anyone giving $50.00 in memory of someone, that person's name will be placed on this plaque. The following names will be placed there now, Don Sextro, Roland Stallbaumer, Christine Burger Childers and Dr. N.W. Berkley, MD.

Since the last news-letter there was one Historical-Genealogy renewal.

1875

The friends of the Congregational church in Seneca are organizing a musical club, to give a concert at some future day in order to obtain a new organ for the church. Kennie Scoville has the matter in charge, and will no doubt report progress in due time.

Reprinted from the Seneca Tribune, February 14, 1907

PIONEER DAYS OF '55

Sketch of a Nemaha County Family Who Have Added Population and Happiness to Kansas Homes.

The sturdy settlers who more than fifty years ago came to these prairie's and whose voices broke the silence which for ages had wrapped the eternal hills, were sunburnt and homely clad, but they were built upon the solid rock. Then they first beheld the Kansas prairies not a furrow had been plowed; no one was here to bid them welcome. Alone, far from all civilization, they set themselves to the task of homebuilding and by heroic sacrifice and noble endeavor they drove from this sterile land the frown of desolation and made it to smile with plenty. What a sad commentary it would be if those who now are enjoying the fruits of their toil should ever grow forgetful of the great sacrifices that have made our present blessings possible.

The following narrative is a sketch of the Williams family of Deer Creek, who were among the very first settlers of Nemaha County, and whose early trials and struggles were much the same as those endured by all those brave hearted pioneers who helped blaze the trail that has made our state today one of the fairest and richest of the union.

My father, Eli Williams, was a native of Pennsylvania. He received his education and early training from Linn S. Herbert, father of Editor Herbert of the Hiawatha World, who was one of the foremost educators of that state. My father was a good musician and had a fair knowledge of medicine, and like many young men of that day he longed to go out west and build up a home himself. Accordingly in 1843 he bid farewell to the granite hills and cast his lot with the west. He came as far as Missouri, where he met, wooed and won Eliza Inglish, only daughter of Judge James Inglish of Moniteau County, Missouri. After a few years of Missouri life he found that he could never be satisfied to live in a slave state, so resolved to leave old Missouri and go to Kansas, get him some land and help hold the new territory for freedom.

His family consisted of himself, wife and four children-Francis, George, Eliza and Milton. Two uncles, Dave and Ammon Inglish, came along to help us get settled in our new home. How well I remember that big ox wagon with its hind wheels as high as an ordinary man's head; three yoke of oxen furnished the motor power. We brought a drove of cattle and four horses. Like "Sweet Betsey from Pike" we had

Three yoke of oxen,

An old brindle dog.
A shanghai rooster
And one big white hog.

After three weeks travel we arrived in Atchison County, Missouri. Here we pitched our tents and rented some ground; crops were good that year and we raised some corn, put up hay and wintered our stock there, as father thought it best to stay on the border a few months, get acclimated and then the men folks could go over and look up a desirable location in the new country. Water and wood were an object in those days.

Right here let me give a description of that now richest county of Missouri. It was surely a land of milk and honey. The slough grass was as high as those wagon wheels and the country was a perfect wilderness. Straud Roberts had the only piece of land cultivated near the river, and it was this land we had rented. Now harken ye nimrods; Deer were so plentiful that they were seen in great herds; wild game of all kinds abounded and the streams were full of fish. We caught several catfish that weighed over 70 pounds. The timber was full of wild bees and honey. Prairie chickens were thick. We went out hunting one day and caught seven 'coons and two wild cats with gun and ax. We soon had more venison than we could carry with us and we left the smoke-house hung with the finest dried venison.

In the spring of '55 we again loaded up and started out to find the new home we had all talked about so long. We had a new boy, Ammon now, and sister Fanny had been given a cat which we brought along; and this was the first cat to come to Nemaha County. Here we were joined by father's brother Oliver Williams and family.

We crossed the Missouri river at Iowa Point (or Ioway Pint as it was then called). There was one store there owned by Bill Beeler. The ferry was run by one Blakely. The Indians never would cross on the ferry boat, but would jump their ponies into the river and then slide off and catch the pony by the tail and so swim across.

Here we camped with a family by the name of John Crosier. They had come to the river to get work and provisions for the next summer and taken land up sixty miles west on Deer Creek, the place now owned by H.C. Settle and farmed by Chris Blaser. They said the land was good out there. Father concluded to take the trail leading west to Fort Kearney and go as far as Deer Creek, so we set out as happy as the larks that were gaily singing along the way. We left the trail at McCloud's grave about one mile west of Berwick and followed the divide until we saw the creek. Mother stood up in the wagon where she could see the valley and the woods like a lovely picture spread out before her. She said: "Children, there lays my home," and her prophecy was true; for here we settled and here she lived a long and useful life.

We moved into a log cabin near Crosier's place and sixteen of us had plenty of room in that 12x16 cabin. We found one neighbor, Jesse Adamson, who lived two miles down the creek. John Crosier returned in a short time and his wife took sick and died; she was buried in what is now the Deer Creek* cemetery and this we believe was the first resident buried in Nemaha County. In three weeks Crosier married Anna Newton. The ceremony was performed by old Grand-daddy Newton. This was the first marriage that took place in this county as far as we know, the summer of 1855. We saw no settlement between Deer Creek and the river. All was a boundless prairie.

We broke up a few acres with our oxen as we had no gear for the horses. Raised corn, turnips and pumpkins on the sod.

Our nearest trading post was Atchison and we went there for supplies; get our mail there also. Heard from the folks back in Missouri about once

*Deer Creek cemetery is now Pleasant Ridge, on the hill S. of Robert Meyer Bern.

every six months. Mother brought cloth that was made in Missouri and later spun and wove and made all our clothing by hand. We cooked by a fireplace.

We had no flour and grated corn on a grater made of tin punched full of holes with a nail and hammer, and as there were quite a family of us, it kept one busy grating meal for our bread. I have the oven yet in which those wonderful corn pones were baked; with fire heaped up around and over it, baked our bread a beautiful brown that tasted the best ever.

Here father's knowledge of medicine proved a great blessing to us, as there was no doctor nearer than the river (Doctor McKay coming to Seneca later on). He not only administered to his own family in sickness, but as settlers came he was in great demand. His medicines were procured in Atchison and he made many different kinds himself from the roots and herbs he found here. Our hog had a litter of pigs and Tabbie had raised a fine family of kittens.

The cabin on our place had been built by a claim smuggler who was holding several claims in the same manner and in the fall he made his appearance. He was a big, burly fellow and made many threats and did much cussing. Father told him he would not move off and the smuggler went away stating he would lay for us when we went to the river and would settle with us good and plenty. "I will be ready for you," said father, "and will always be prepared to give you a hot reception", and after that he slept with his loaded gun by his side when going to Atchison. I always went along for a body guard. One night some time after this our horses began to snort while we were in camp near the Kickapoo Indian reserve. we peeped out expecting to see a gang of smugglers, but instead found we were surrounded by dozens of Indians on horseback; Oh! but my blood ran cold. I expected to hear them give a whoop and get my scalp right there, but they rode away as mysteriously as they came and we never knew what they were up to.

The Indians would often come to our cabin and stand around or sit on their ponies and look at us and then ride away. They were all painted in war colors and be-feathered and looked mighty scary. Many depredations were committed by the Indians then within twenty-five miles of our cabin. No wonder we were leary of them.

September 8, 1856, my sister Maria Elizabeth Williams was born and she is beyond doubt the first child born in Nemaha County.

About this time settlers begun to come into the new country very fast. Among them came David Linn and family, Thomas Lipincot Winters and family, Bill Harris and Mr. Markley on Harris Creek; Richard Clency on Short Branch; Ferdinand Pelton at the head of Deer Creek; the Newton families, Richard Johnson, Tobe Augustine and the Hickses. They all had the ideal Roosevelt families. These were our earliest neighbors.

The year of '57 will long be remembered by the old settlers, as crops were a failure and the winter one of the coldest on record. It was a year to try the nerve of the stoutest hearted. In mid-winter our supplies run short and we had nothing for bread, so father determined to make a trip to the 'Pint" for a load of flour. It was clear and cold when he started with two yoke of oxen and he told us he would be back in three weeks; while he was gone we would have to substitute hominy for bread. Soon a howling blizzard set in; we were kept indoors for fear we would get lost even so near home. Our father we knew was on the way. All night we kept a light burning for him, hoping against hope that he might come safely home. One day he came driving his oxen without the wagon. He was forced to leave it out on the divide near Bern and said he had bucked snow drifts for days and he was almost exhausted.

There was rejoicing in that cabin that day and it was then we realized that bread was indeed the staff of life, for it was three weeks before he could go for the wagon load of flour.

I think it was during this storm that Mr. Markley, father of Jonathan Markley of Oneida died. He had been dead three days before they dared venture out to get assistance to bury him. He was buried there near his home. His son Jonathan was then a lad of ten years and as they had no supplies he volunteered to take two yoke of oxen and go back to Iowa and get a load of provisions. He was gone about six weeks. He was a hero, though no bard has ever sung his praise.

Deer and turkeys were plentiful that winter here, the Newtons killing 22 deer. But few deer and no turkeys were ever seen after that cold winter.

Border ruffians, hostile Indians, drouths, grasshoppers and the distant rumors of war kept us in constant alarm. The hostile Indians were on the war path to the west of us and the border ruffians were slaying the free state men on the east, so we were between two fires as it were.

About this time my father was elected a delegate to the Lecompton convention where they were to decide whether Kansas should be a free or a slave state. Father was a free state man. Richard Clency was to go as a body guard. No truer man ever trod Kansas soil. With their revolvers ready for action and their best saddle horses equipped with provisions and camping utensils, they were ready to start when a special messenger arrived, sent to them by old Jim Lane, telling them it would be useless to start as they would never get there alive and that they should guard their movements till he came to their aid. He came and built a fort near the present site of Sabetha, which we called Fort Lane. Father was appointed by him to look out for intruders and he was ever ready to sell his life as dearly as possible. At night he would load his gun and stand it by his bed and an ax ground sharp and an old Revolutionary sword were also ready for myself and mother if we should be attacked.

But the presence of Lane saved us as well as many others at that time. Later on I heard him speak at Seneca and was introduced to him. He spoke of me as a "nice little boy" and I tell you I thought he was the greatest man alive when he made those border ruffians skedaddle and saved our lives.

The war now was a reality and Lincoln had made his call for 90-day men to put down the rebellion. You know the rest.

Father was sick and could not go. He died near the close of the war and we were left a struggling pioneer family with the whole country made desolate with the rebellion.

Our parents now began to better our condition by schools and Sunday schools. Thomas Newton, uncle of F.M. and Orlando Newton, was the first preacher to call upon us. Our first public school on Deer Creek was taught by Miss Lizzie Pelton, afterward the wife of Granderson Johnson. We were taught the three "Rs," had all kinds of readers-Elementary, Sanders, Wilson and McGuffey's; seats made of slabs; no desks; no blackboards; two slates with slatestone pencils made by us boys; teacher's desk was a trunk. We stood up to recite. In winter we big boys had to chop and carry in the wood for the fire. I went three months each year and finally graduated in woodchopping; other branches somewhat neglected.

The boys played ball. Bull-pen was then the big game of the country. This is how it was played; Four boys took the corners then all the other boys went inside. The ball was passed around once; the ball was then hot; the players would now keep as far from the ball as possible. It was then passed back and forth until it was dropped or some one was hit. If the thrower missed his aim the boy missed went to the corner and the thrower would go to the pen. This would be kept up till the ball and the boys' tempers would get hot; then the umpire would call the game off.

While our older boys were off to the war we at home were training and playing at war. One battle we fought will perhaps be remembered by Charley Herold and Rufus Emery, Sr. The battle was fought in a field of sorghum and was between the "bushwhackers" and the "Union scouts" Rufe and Charley were so badly crippled they were laid up for more than a week and the rest of us were not feeling very good. If we broke or dislocated a bone we fixed the patient up ourselves-I was their doctor, and although I set many a bone and pulled (with the aid of several others) many bones into place I never had any crooked effects. Girls and boys played blackman and Ada Pelton (now Mrs. F.M. Newton) was our star player. Dancing was engaged in by young and old. My father was the first fiddler that ever sawed a tune on Deer Creek; and folks danced those days. How well I remember such old tunes as Opera Reel, Virginia Reel, Sir Roger de Coverly, Varsouvienne and Money Musk. Beat your two-steps all hollow. William Wright was a wheel horse at our early dances. Then came such musicians as Neil Bonine, George Johnson (our marshal), James LaRue, Dick Johnson, Mort. Mathews, Kennie Scoville and I tell you we sent them around on a double quick. We also had debating societies and Rolando Pelton, now of Robinson, Brown County, was the orator of the day. When he took off his paper collar and unbuttoned his shirt the judges had to yield. The young folks were taught writing and singing by competent teachers at night and we could sing in those days. Nothing very classical, but good time and melody.

I attended the first celebration ever held in Seneca. The band was a fife and drum. The man who played the fife was an old veteran of the Revolutionary war. His name was Courier. He was G.W. Johnson's grandfather. We had a real barbecue in the grove north of Karnowski's feed lots. Charley Scrafford and Sam Lappin were the promoters, as this was their townsite.

Time has made a wonderful change. Today we are surrounded with every convenience and with luxuries never dreamed of in those early days, yet I doubt if as a rule we are as contented as were that noble band of pioneers.

I would say that the farm my father pre-empted has never changed hands. It is still owned by the Williamses and for fifty years no one else has tilled the soil. We claim to be the oldest settlers now living in Nemaha County.

George W. Williams of Deer Creek.

The dandelions were brought to Kansas in the late 1860's or early 1870's. The dandelion was a beautiful flower-coveted for flower beds in Kansas. In 1937, lawns are being riddled with dandelions.

Oneida once had a Hyde Park. Back in 1878, 10 acres of land was set apart for recreational purposes. A building 40x40 was called the Rialto.

1875

Seneca will give a festival at the Stone church on Friday evening, Oct 15. An attractive program will be arranged for the occasion. Proceeds to be devoted to buying a new library.

Worth REPEATING

If Noah Lived in the United States Today

Congresswoman Sue Myrick's (R-NC) floor statement on June 22, 1999: Mr Speaker, this is not original. It was sent to me by someone else, but I thought it was very apropos for our life today. It is called If Noah Lived in the United States Today.

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In one year I'm going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all flesh is destroyed, but I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on the earth. Therefore I'm commanding you to build an ark." In a flash of lightning, God delivered the specifications for an ark, and fear and trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build the ark. "Remember," said the Lord, "you must complete the ark and bring everything aboard in one year."

Well, exactly one year later fierce storm clouds covered the earth, and all the seas of the earth went into tumult. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard weeping. "Noah," he shouted, "Where is the ark? Lord, please forgive me," cried Noah. "I did my best, but there were big problems."

"First, I had to get a permit for construction, and your plans did not meet the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm to redraw the plans. Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the ark needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices. Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had problems getting enough wood for the ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the spotted owl. I finally convinced the US Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls, so no owls."

"The carpenters formed a union and went on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or a hammer. Now I have 16 carpenters on the ark, but still no owls. When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me only taking two of each kind of animal aboard. Just when I got the suit dismissed the EPA notified me that I could not complete the ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the universe. Then the Army Engineers demanded a map of the proposed new flood plain. So I sent them a globe. Right now I'm trying to resolve a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that I'm practicing discrimination by not taking Godless or unbelieving people on board."

"The IRS has seized my assets claiming I'm building an ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid taxes. I just got a notice from the State that I owe them some kind of tax and that I failed to register the ark as a recreational watercraft.

Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the ark saying that since God is flooding the earth it is a religious event and therefore unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the ark for another five or six years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear and the sun began to shine and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky, and Noah looked up hopefully. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth, Lord?" "No," the Lord said sadly, "I don't have to. The government already has."

1875

There will be a neck tie social and festival at the Union Dale school house on Thursday evening, Oct. 31. All are cordially invited. Each lady will be expected to bring a neck tie like the dress she wears enclosed in a blank envelope.

1875

A party of boys from Seneca went over to the Union Dale neck tie festival on a hand car. Going over the road is mostly up-grade, and they no doubt earned their passage: but coming back, it was fun, the car going down-grade without power. Frank Scrafford, Reuben Emery, Frank Peckham, Wm. Lewis, and Edson Hornbeck composed the "section".

Congregational church success-$1,500 raised for immediate purchase of a pipe organ and for enlargement of the Sunday School room of the church. 20-1899. Dedicated 42-1900

99

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

00

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ______ Phone: (___) _____ - ______

_____	Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person	_____	Renewal
_____	Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person	_____	New
_____	Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00		

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sixth and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 2000 / HG
Ardella Becker
Corning, KS 66417

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
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6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 68
May-June 2000

PRESIDENT: Alan Ward 857-3760 (00)
VICE-PRESIDENT: Joyce Olberding 336-3334 (02)
SECRETARY: Barbara Chilson 336-6221 (01)
TREASURER: Ardella Becker 868-3545 (01)
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Naomi Turner 336-2720 (00)
Eugene Visser 868-2398 (01)
Caryl Schell 868-2861 (01)
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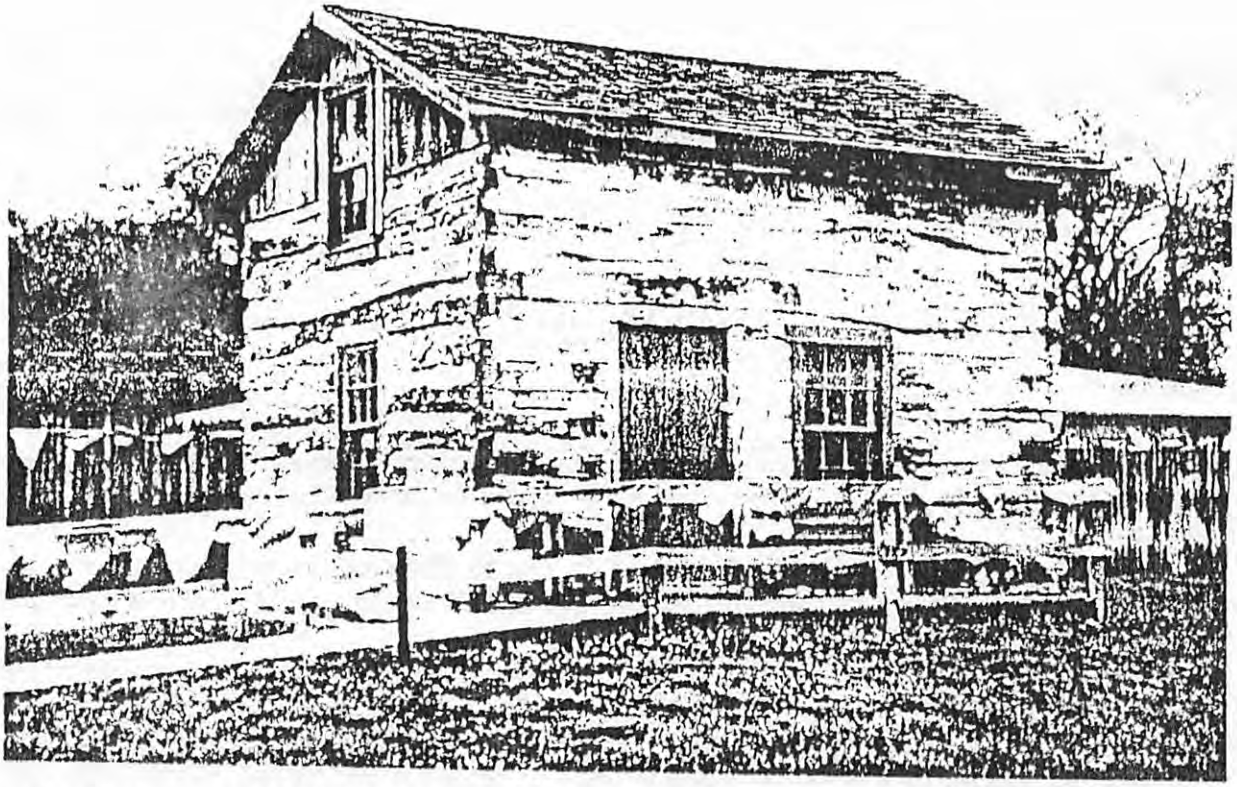
John Rethman 336-3421 (02)

Courtsey of the Westmoreland Recorder, 4 May 2000



The Hettie Summervill Cabin was dedicated Sunday, April 31. The cabin was moved to its current location at the Rock Creek Valley Historical Museum complex in Westmoreland from its original location northeast of Neuchatel and renovation of the two story cabin was recently completed. The cabin was built in 1867 by Henry Labbe. The cabin and land were purchased in the late 1800s by Ike and Hettie Summervill. Ike died in the early 1900s and Hettie continued to farm the land with her six daughters and lived in the cabin until her death in 1956. Hettie was the grandmother of O. F. "Doc" Maskil, a former editor and publisher of the *Recorder.*

20 April 2000

The Pioneer Press
Nemaha County Historical Society
6th & Nemaha
Seneca, KS 66538

Dear Editor,

Perhaps your readers would be interested in a few observations on the recollections of George Williams reprinted from the Seneca Tribune of 14 Feb. 1907. Ralph Tennal, editor of the Sabetha Herald, included memoirs of Mary (Williams) Cox in his 1916 History of Nemaha County. Mary was George's sister. Tennal says Mary was 9 years old in 1855 and an eyewitness to the Mormon encampment at Murphy Lake. George says his sister, Maria Elizabeth, was born 8 Sept. 1856, after the family settled on Deer Creek and does not mention the Mormons. Although he appears to have been mistaken about Mary's personal knowledge of the Mormon death camp, I think Mr. Tennal's story accurately supplements George Williams' family recollections of pioneer experiences.

Isaac & Lydia (Pryor?) Miller were perhaps among the Mormon settlers at Murphy Lake in 1853-55. They are not on Mormon records as having reached Salt Lake City, and may have returned to Iowa after 1857 when John Pryor made inquiry in the White Cloud Kansas Chief.

William Banks was ferryman at Iowa Point in 1855 (not Blakely). Ruins of Banks' stone house, built 1848, still stand on the east side of the Missouri River at Iowa Point. Deer Creek Cemetery, known as Pleasant Ridge in 1907, is identified as the Williams Cemetery on the modern USGS Bern quadrangle.

Very truly,

Morris Werner
3014 23rd Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37215-1208

MEMORIAL PLAQUE:

The following memoria
by Harry C.M. Burger:

Donald Sextro
Roland Stallbaumer
Christine Burger Chi
Dr. N.W. Berkley, MD

Donald & Anita Sextro,
by The Sextro Family

Judith Olberding Hus
by Eldon & Joyce Olb

New Members Since Last News

New members of the Historical S
Melvin and Antonia Haug, Sene
Dave Stein, Universal City, Texa

The new member of the Historical
Genealogical Society is:
Nancy Hargis, Pleasanton, Califo

From the Courier-Tribune, Octobe

"A new kitchen porch has been built at Nemaha County Jail."

DUES ARE DUE

Dear Members,

If your address sticker says "expires June 2000" that is just what it means. The membership year is from June 30 to June 30. Historical Society dues are $5.00 per person per year, due by June 30 for the following year.

With your membership you get four issues of the Pioneer Press, the society newsletter, and the privilege of helping preserve and maintain the historical heritage of Nemaha County by actively assisting the board of directors in their efforts.

Historical with Genealogical Society dues are $10.00 per person per year. This includes all the privileges of the historical society plus the four issues of the Nemaha County Genealogical Society Newsletter.

Use the form on the back of this newsletter to renew. Copy it for a friend to join or to use for gift memberships for your children. It's their heritage too.

Sincerely,

Your membership person,
Dorothy Pearl Murphy

This article was printed in the June 8, 1925 Courier Tribune under a picture 'guess this photo'.

As a peace officer this man has turned in more felons than any man in northeastern if not the state.

THE DALTON CASE: Charlie Andrews gravitated to police and detective work from his experience with a member of the notorious Dalton gang which separated for a number of years in southeastern Kansas. The story of the capture forms one of the most thrilling incident of police action in this part of the state. It will bear retelling as a story that has not been printed for more than a decade.

At that time Charlie Andrews was city marshal of Corning. One day Charlie and L.S. Slocum, now probate judge of Nemaha County were in the Corning hotel when a traveling salesman happened to be telling of three men who had robbed stores at Axtell and Vermillion. These three robbers were horseback.

"I'll bet they were the same three men who stopped at my school house for a drink, spoke up Lew Slocum, and he proceeded to describe them. Judge Slocum was then a county school teacher at America City.

That interested Charlie Andrews. He enlisted Jud Baker, Corning lumberman, and the next morning volunteer posse of two took the road in the height of a mid-winter blizzard. So fierce was the storm they were of a mind to turn back. They followed the Parallel to the J.T. Buening school house where the camp of the robbers was found. On their way to Soldier for breakfast they ran slab dab into the gang. Charlie and Judd jumped out of their buggy and threw their shotguns down on the three. Two of them held up their hands. They were Royal and Taylor. The third who afterward proved to be no less a bandit than Jim Dalton, turned his horse and galloped away. Andrews and Baker handcuffed Royal and Taylor and in a few minutes Dalton came back. He said afterwards that it was his intention to try for a drop on the captors and effect the release of his accomplices. Andrews and Baker drew down on Dalton and he joined the others as a prisoner.

DALTON MAKES A MISTAKE: It was while Jim Dalton was waiting for a train to take him to Marysville for trial that he made a mistake that afterward cost him his liberty. He gave Charlie Andrews a letter to mail. It was addressed to Mrs. Eliza Dalton, Brooklyn, Indiana. Why he made a note of the address Andrews probably didn't know. It was just a habit that he had acquired that has proven useful to him in dozens of other incidents in later life.

THE MURDER AT THE JAIL: Dalton, Royal and Taylor sawed their way out of the Marysville jail while waiting for trial. As they left the jail they knocked out the brains of a special watchman, a man by the name of Charlie Batterson.

Then it was that Charlie Andrews found a use for address of Dalton's mother. He wrote the postmaster at Brooklyn, Indiana and in that way kept the inquiry fresh.

Four years passed. Then came a tip to Andrews from the postmaster to the effect that Mrs. Dalton was getting her mail from her son at San Antonio, Texas. Andrews at once went to San Antonio and enlisted the police department. Two special officers were assigned to the case. It was arranged that the two officers should stay in the postoffice lobby. The postal clerks were tipped off. When any man by the name of Dalton called for mail a signal was to be given. After a wait of three days Jim Dalton called for his mail and was promptly arrested.

Andrews wired Sheriff Guthrie of Marshall county. Guthrie came down and took Dalton back to Marysville He was found guilty of murder and drew a life sentence at Lansing. At the penitentiary he as a model prisoner. He became a Bertillion expert* and taught a Sunday School class. Gov. Stubbs gave him a parole or a pardon. That cost Gov. Stubbs Marshall County's friendship.

Jim Dalton is said to be living in California. Royal and Taylor the other two men never were captured, though Andrews very nearly caught Royal in a Colorado town.

*Bertillon system--a system for the identification of persons by a physical description based upon anthropometric measurements, notes of markings, deformities, color, impression of thumb lines, etc.

Reprinted from Seneca newspaper, 1910

Charley Andrews, candidate for sheriff has received an unusual letter from James Dalton, one of the men he went after and captured. Andrews captured Dalton twice, receiving a reward of $200 from the governor of the state. The letter follows.

"I have been informed that you are a candidate for sheriff of Nemaha county, and I know from my own personal experience that the people of that county could not get a braver or shrewder man for the place than you. I do not say this to flatter you, but because I know what you did in my case. I remember you at lirst when you arrested Royal Taylor and myself below Corning, Kansas and the nerve you displayed at that time, proved to my satisfaction that you were a very brave man. Then afterward when you traced me around the world and at last arrested me in San Antonio, Texas, I was impressed with the fact that you were not only brave, but very shrewd. You may think I would be prejudiced against you because of the fact that you were instrumental in putting me in this place, but I assure you that I am not and I admire you for what you really are, a brave man, a shrewd one and a gentleman. At present I am working in the Bertillion Department and my record is clean. I hope some day to regain my liberty and begin life all over again, and I shall profit by the great lesson that I have been taught by you and others who so loyally support the laws of society. James S. Dalton

---

Minutes continued:

The annual June dinner meeting will be June 4, 2000, at 6:30 pm, in the north room at Valentino's. Ann Moser and a few of her music students will entertain us with their music selections. If you wish to come, please contact a board member in your area, Alan Ward, Centralia, Ardella Becker, Corning, or Joyce Olberding, Seneca, before May 31. Remember, if you cannot come at the last minute, please let them know, or you will be billed for the meal.

In 1905 the State Bank of Bancroft was robbed. The burglers escaped on a KCNW handcar....

The Nemaha County Historical Society met at the museum annex on May 9, 2000, at 7:30pm.

Attending were, Alan Ward, Ardella Becker, Gene Visser, Joyce Olberding, Lillian Engelken, Naomi Turner and Pauline Esslinger.

Alan reviewed a letter he sent to the board members, concerning a parking area on the north side of the museum. The Nemaha Valley Community Hospital has purchased the Medical Arts Building across the street north of the museum, and they have asked the Historical Society if they may pave the area up to the sidewalk. There would be no cost to the Society and it would be public parking, which would also benefit the museum when we have our events. This will be discussed at the dinner meeting in June.

Everyone went over to the old hospital building and looked at the rooms in the basement. The museum is planning to use them for small machinery and other extra items.

On Sunday, May 7, the Law Enforcement building had an Open House, so Mary Steinlage opened the museum for those interested in touring the museum, too. She had twenty-five visiters who stopped by.

On April 26, Joe Schroeder presented the Historical Society with a walnut eaves bracket and a hand-fired brick he acquired from the crew that was tearing down the old Pony Express station, the Smith Hotel, in 1972. He also presented the museum with photos, newspaper clippings and a book 'The Overland Trail to California--The Pony Express' by Frank Root and William E. Connelley.

Alan brought a copy of the Westmoreland Recorder with a picture of the Hettie Summervill Cabin, which was dedicated Sunday, April 30. The cabin was moved to the Rock Creek Valley Historical Museum Complex from its original location northeast of Neuchatel and renovated. The cabin was built in 1867 by Henry Labbe. (This information courtesy of the Westmoreland Recorder.) Labbe was an early pioneer in Nemaha County.

The Bancroft Depot Museum will be open Memorial week-end, everyone is urged to attend.

The museum will be open for the summer, starting May 22, the girls working this summer will be Jenny Claas and Shelly Broxterman. There will be volunteers helping in the afternoons again. Days and hours the museum will be open will be given later.

← Continued other side

00

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

01

Name: ______________________________

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City. ____________________ State: ____________

Zip + 4: ____________ - ______ Phone: (___) _____ - ______

______ Individual-historical only @ $5.00 per person

______ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person

______ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

______Renewal

______New

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society 6th and Nemaha Seneca KS 66538 If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you

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Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Membership expires: June 2000 / HG
Clarence & Lillian Engelken
Route 1, Box 129
Seneca, KS 66538

THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by
THE NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 69 SEPTEMBER 2000

PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334	(02)
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Alan Ward	857-3760	(03)
SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Ardella Becker	868-3545	(01)
	Barbara Chilson	336-6221	(01)
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	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(01)
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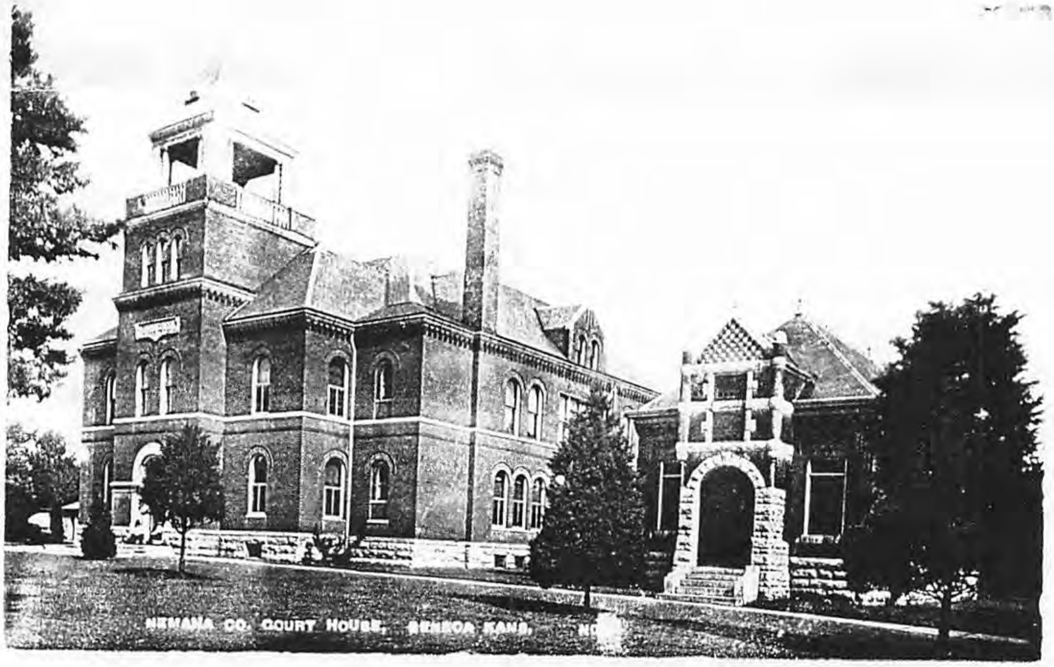

Postcard- 1910, Nemaha Co. Courthouse, Seneca, Kans.

A city ordinance passed in Seneca prior to 1889: " NO person shall appear on any street, alley, public place open to public view, in any state of nudity, nor in a dress not belonging to his or her sex".

The Nemaha County Historical Society board members met August 15, 2000 at the museum in Seneca. There were four members present, Joyce Olberding, Naomi Turner, Gene Visser and Byron Lear, also present were Lillian Engelken, curator and Pauline Esslinger, reporter.

Joyce opened the meeting. Since there were only four members present there wasn't a quorum. In the absence of the secretary-treasurer. those reports were not given. Correspondence was read, and the activities of the board was discussed.

Joyce had sent Joe Schroeder the article about him giving the museum the Pony Express items and he sent a 'Thank You' to the museum.

Lillian assembled a group who generously helped move the extra items from the Annex over to the old hospital building where we have rented rooms. They will be arranged and displayed at the Open House October 1st.

The ice cream committee will meet September 28 at the Annex to make the ice cream for Open House. If you would like to help with this project, please call Lillian Engelken for details, etc.

Lillian reported that the museum has received several antique outfits and dresses for children. They fit the large dolls that were given to the museum, come in and see how cute they are. There have been several additions to the displays, and there are a complete set of the cemetery books by Cletus Suther, donated by Pauline Esslinger, in the genealogy room.

Plans were made for Open House on October 1. If anyone has a collection they would like to display, please call Joyce or Lillian. There will be a 'country store' and donated items are needed to sell, everyone likes baked goods. Again, there will be a lunch stand, with homemade pie and ice cream. Donations of pies will be appreciated and someone will be calling to ask for them. Volunteers are also welcome. The museum is supported by these fund raising projects and we appreciate the volunteers who give their time and effort to make this day a success.

The Fall dinner meeting will beat 6:30pm September 10, 2000 at the Windmill Inn, Seneca, KS. If you wish to attend, please call a board member, and let them know you are coming. If you cannot come at the last minute, you need to let the person know, or you will need to pay for the reservation.

The next Board meeting will be November 7, 2000 at the museum in Seneca.

1840

Diggers of a cesspool at the Holtel Gilford uncovered part of the skeleton of a MASTODON. The large part of the skeleton was left in the ground because its removal would have required another excavation.

Seneca history—

Johnson recalls Deer Creek

(The following article appeared in the March 8, 1945 issue of The Courier-Tribune. It should still be of interest to readers now, fifty years later.)

Sam Johnson, former Nemaha County resident, now of Topeka, uses a little biography to impress the minds of the readers of his memories of early day life in this community. He has been requested by some of his friends to write of his experience when Nemaha County was young, especially of his life in the Deer Creek neighborhood. The following is Mr. Johnson's story.

"My parents (Mr. and Mrs. George W. Johnson) moved to Kansas in 1858 and were among the first settlers of Deer Creek neighborhood. They were united in marriage August 24, 1862, and lived on a farm on the Linn Branch, after my grandfather, David Linn, the first settler.

They later moved to the northeast quarter of section 3, township 2, range 13, where I was born, May 25, 1863. My childhood days of three years were on this farm. In 1866 we moved near the head of Deer Creek.

Our neighbors at this time were Zimmerman, Stoldt, Meisner, Washburn, Ott, Jundon on the east; on the west, Voils and Peltons.

My memory serves me very well of the hardships we settlers had to endure, the worst were the prairie fires set by the Indians early in the fall to drive the game onto the creek banks. Every man had to plow and maintain a fire guard as a protection from losing his home. I remember of our nearest neighbor being burned out on account of neglecting his fire guard.

At that time Deer Creek was well wooded with big timber. The houses were all made of logs with fireplaces for heating. The farm of plow land was limited from 15 to 40 or 50 acres. The fences consisted mostly of stakes and riders made of rails and poles. The hay during this period (1869) was harvested with the scythe in the low ground and sloughs, as grass on the upland did not grow tall enough for hay.

Now my memory invites you into Home Sweet Home, which at this date consisted of a one-room log house and fireplace with a large flat rock for a hearth. My mother possessed a small cast iron cook stove and for light she used what was called a grease lamp, composed of a tin pan or saucer with lard or tallow and a cotton string twisted like a rope for the wick.

Later my grandmother bought a candle mold in Atchison and from then on we had candle light. I well remember my father coming home from town with a glass lamp and a gallon of coal oil.

"Every family made an effort to have an outside cave in which to store their winter supply of edibles. My father built the first cane mill on Deer Creek for a neighbor (Uncle Woody Williams) in 1869, out of burr oak timber, using three oak logs for rolls to crush the juice from the cane, which was put into kettles and boiled into molasses. We did not call it syrup in those days.

"Every householder made his own soap and lye. The family lye factory was a crude hopper of tin made of clapboard to hold the ashes until soap-making time. Water was then poured into the bin of ashes and the lye runoff was the lye to make the soap, called soft soap and stored in wooden barrels supported with wooden hoops. The hoop pole business was quite an industry at that time and hooping a barrel required skill to do a good job.

"When wash day came, most of the people selected a handy place near the creek where they could get water and fuel to heat it. The bushes served as clothes lines. The creeks formed the neighborhoods. Deer Creek vicinity extended from what is now the Sabetha Lake locality, as far west at the Hillix Schoolhouse in District 29, and Harris Creek on the south, where Oneida is now located, then west to the Nemaha.

On the north of the neighborhood was called the Four Mile, and the Lehmans were early settlers. The roads to and from all neighbors were across the prairies, any direction. There were no bridges across any creeks, but one wooden bridge was placed across the Nemaha, east of Seneca. Our long drive was to Fries' Mill on the Nemaha for flour and corn meal.

"I started to school at District No. 30 in the spring of 1869. The school house was a one-room log house. At that time District 30 was about six miles square and some of the scholars had a long walk. One man living on the prairies near the present Berwick locality plowed a trail from his home to the school so his children would not get lost.

"In 1870-71 the farmers began enclosing their farms with fences to prevent loose stock from running over their land. My father fenced his eighty acres with posts and smooth wire, using a brace and bit to bore holes in the posts to hold the wire as there were no staples until barbed wire was introduced.

In 1872 the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad was built. The first survey was made down Deer Creek near our home, but the "Big Shots" changed the route to come down Harris Creek. My first memory of getting mail from the railroad was in 1874. The post office was in a farm house close to the track. The postmaster was Pat Kerns, owner of the farm adjoining Oneida, where Claude Anderson now lives.

Reprint Courier Tribune
October. 1995

OUR ANNUAL....

Special Reduced Rate Excursion

To Kansas City

Via The KANSAS CITY NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD on

Sunday, July 29th.

—SPECIAL TRAIN WILL—

Leave Seneca 6:26 a. m., arriving Kansas City (Central Ave.) 11:30 a. m.

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A Trip That All Should Make.

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Base Ball Game—Exposition Park.

Free Band Concert and Vandeville performances afternoon and evening at Fairmount Park.

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The Old Reliable

DRUG STORE.

Merely to remind you.

COURIER-
DEMOCRAT
JULY 27, 1900

SUBMITTED
BY
DOROTHY Pearl
Murphy

Grandma Remembers

"Ode to my varicose veins"
The day was sunny and bright and clear
Everyone was happy and gay
The time was one o'clock
And we were on our way.

We saw Altha at the rest home
Glad she was looking so well
Then stopped at Bills, nobody there
They're hard to find I declared.
So on to the hospital
To check in before three
Emil in Herb's room
and me in room 203.
I felt right at home
I had the same room before
And Midge was there too
Who could ask for more.
They sure kept me busy
With temperatures, bloodpressure and tests
Also bloodsamples and shots
But not in my chest.
Then such a relief
To have bandages off
And a hot tub bath
Now you needn't scoff.
A free ride to the basement
I said I could walk
Dr... drew pictures on my legs
And he didn't use chalk.
There was a big leaf
With lots of veins showing
And a big greyhound
Real fast he was going.
Soon it was bed time
I slept quite well
But the next day
I don't remember so well.
I remember saying goodbye to Midge
As they wheeled me over the floor
And that I waved goodbye to Herb
As I was rolled past his door.
There is a saying that fits me quite well
For what happened that day
I never could tell
Count that day lost whose low descending sun
Sinks from thy sight no worthy action done.
I'm sorry I caused so much worry and troubles
But the worthy actions were all done by others.
When the doctors and nurses had done all they could
They called in a priest of course they should.
I was put in God's hands and God is so good
He must have opened th
wide for the next morni
With a nurse on each arm carrying bottles and bags
We walked down the hall to limber my legs.
And again that night and so every day
We walked a little farther
But I must say
The bed felt lots better the rest of the day.
They wheeled Emil in to tell me goodbye
On his way to the rest home and this is why
There he has good care and we'll bring him home
As soon as I'm able to manage alone.
The nicest thing that happened I think
Was when Smitty brought me some water to drink.
Well they treated me fine
Everyone was so nice.
Jim and Herb stopped in
Each day three times or twice
But I wanted to go home and so one day
Doctor said I could go and be on my way.
Smitty came for me and what the heck
Said "If you don't behave I'
bringing you back."
But I have to be good I can't wear my shoes
So couldn't go anywhere if I did choose.
But I did enjoy all the visits, cards, and gifts
And the nurses and aids that gave me a lift
I'm glad to be home to the place I was born
And lived all my life except nine years I roamed.
Well Smitty may be watching
So I better go rest
And nestle right down
In my own little nest.
Later
Emil was in the rest home exactly a month
While I waited three weeks home alone
For my legs to get better and to gain back my strength
Before we could bring him home.
No we're both home
Although not feeling our best
We're doing fine
And we'll let time do the rest.

Centralia
JOURNAL-LEADER
SUBMITTED BY
MARY STEINLAGE

Remembers Underground Railroad

Editor: The Courier-Tribune, October 1924

In last week's issue of your paper, in reference to early history of Nemaha county, you mention the "underground railroad" that existed during the early 60's. I have a recollection of one night in particular. I am not certain of the time, but it was before 1863, for that spring my father, (T.A. Campfield) sold his mules and bought oxen with which he freighted across the plains. He made two trips to Denver that season.

I was a small boy, and was supposed to be sound asleep and not know what was going on, but who could sleep with so much noise. I was awakened by the noise of rattling wagons, the sound of horses' hoofs on the hard ground. There was loud talking and laughter down stairs. I could smell the boiling coffee and hear the rattle of dishes. Odd sounds during the night in our usually quiet prairie home. Quietly slipping into my clothes, I felt my way down the dark stairs until I reached the door. I confess that it was the big scare of my life, and being alone and in the dark did not make matters any better. Slowly pushing the door open inch by inch, until there was a crack wide enough to see through, there I beheld a sight, the like of which I had never before seen, and one never to be forgotten.

It seemed as though the room was full of people as black as the ace of spades. There was a few of our neighbors whom I recognized. Father had the mules hitched to the wagons, near the door. Mother had made a boiler of coffee and set out a lunch, which quickly disappeared Then all got in the wagon and were off. It was the expectation to unload them in Nebraska before daylight. It is my recollection that Mr. Hugh Hamilton accompanied my father on that trip. Each armed with a double barreled shotgun and a revolver strapped to their sides. The wagon or wagons that had brought them to our place had returned homeward. From whence they came or who was with them I never knew, that was a secret in those days.

Later my parents explained to me that those night trips were all prearranged, and each man knew what was expected of him. Large rewards were offered for the capture and return of runaway slaves, and there were men in the country who were making their way of living by locating the fugitive slaves. A.F. Camplield, Centralia

The Courier Tribune, Seneca, KS September 5, 1927

Submitted by: Dorothy Pearl Murphy

Log Chain Farm

That Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, stopped at Log Chain in Nemaha county in the year, 1859, seems an established fact. Many old timers in the years gone by have told of Lincoln's visit here with his secretary previous to his election to the Presidency. Recently Joshua Mitchell, venerable Seneca jurist, gave a sworn affidavit to Dr. S. Murdock, Jr., present owner of Log Chain, stating that he saw Lincoln and visited with him at the hotel in Log Chain that year. Brown county has been endeavoring to get a historical marker placed there to mark place of Lincoln's farthest west visit. Other data and affidavits are being secured to file with the Kansas Historical Society and the marker will have to be placed in Nemaha county at Log Chain. It seems that Lincoln was making a tour of the west and crossed the Missouri river at Elwood and traveled by ox team as far as Log Chain and then returned to Atchison.

The present Log Chain is a pretty sight. Extensive farm buildings are center of one of Dr. Murdock's large land holdings. When he acquired the land a number of years ago the old saloon, livery stable and other buildings of the pony express station remained. These he has removed but the old hotel building was preserved. The building was raised and a new foundation placed beneath it. An extension roof, siding and spacious screened-in porch were added. Mrs. Murdock manages one of the largest egg-producing plants in Nemaha county on the farm. The place is a hobby for the busy surgeon and his wife and they enjoy many hours there each week.

Log Chain was a station between Kennekuk in Brown county and the Smith hotel in Seneca on the Pony Express. (Goff Advance)

DIDJAKNOW?

Jean Harlow lived in Seneca as a small girl and attended school here for a time. Her grandfather worked on the railroad while he lived here and Jean was a frequent visitor. Her name then was Harlean Carpenter and when she went to Hollywood she called herself after her Mother's maiden name, Jean Harlow.

1882

The Seneca Fire Company purchased a bell. The old bell, mounted, marks the fireman's lot in the city cemetery.

A while back, there was interest in the Underground Railroad in the Seneca area, while looking for items in the Seneca papers, I came across this article from a October 1, 1924 paper.

It was during Judge Graham's turn that we find the young Abijah Wells breaking into public life. William Histed resigned as district clerk in November of '66 (1866) and Graham appointed Wells in his place. Evidently the job was not remunerative for the young man resigned the year following. Perhaps he resigned to practice law for he was admitted to the bar during Judge Graham's term. Judge Mitchell says that William Wells, Abijah's father had one of the stations on the underground railroad. There was a station at Old Albany, one at the Wells home and one at Alex McCutcheon's at Centralia. One day in the early sixties young Mitchell and Bob Morse, Arthur Morse's father, were on their way to Iowa to get provisions. They found Turkey Creek flooded. A covered wagon was attempting a crossing. Midstream the current upset it. At once the stream was black with darkies, many of whom could not swim. McCutcheon was driving the wagon and pulled some of them out. Probably McCutcheon was relaying the negroes from Old Albany to Centralia.

Since the last news letter:

NEW MEMBERS:
Historical Society-LIFE
George Everhard, Omaha, NE
Michael Lauer, Camarillo, CA
Timothy Lauer, Mountain View, CA
Andrea Lauer, Weehawken, NJ
Scott Suther, New Carlisle, OH

Historical Society-ANNUAL
Byron & Toby Lear, Bern, KS
Jim Lauer, Olathe, KS
Jean Nyquist, Cameron, SC
Don Lauer, Albuquerque, NM

Genealogy Society-ANNUAL
Lorrayne Foltz, Orland, CA
Diane Warwick, Omaha, NE
Maurice Lierz, Santa Fe, NM
Amy Fleeker, Meade, KS
Maurice Holthaus, Shawnee, KS

DECEASED MEMBERS:
Floyd Ford, Wetmore, KS
Herbert Niehues, Corning, KS

MEMORIALS IN HONOR OF:
Herbert Niehues, by
Jean Hiehues
Mr & Mrs G. Everett Murphy
Mr & Mrs Michael Philbrick

Memberships NOT PAID for 2000-2001 will EXPIRE after this issue of the PIONEER PRESS...

October 26, 1910

St. Peter and Paul auditorium was dedicated by Bishop Lillis.

In 1894, S.D. Harlow, grandfather of movie star, Jean Harlow, moved to St Joseph. He had been a conductor on the Northwestern R R.

00

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

01

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Address. ______________________________

City: ______________________ State: ______________

Zip + 4: ______________ - ________ Phone (___) _____ - ______

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_____ Lifetime-historical @ $100.00 per person

_____ Individual-historical with genealogy @ $10.00

_____ Renewal

_____ New

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______________

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6th and Nemaha
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 70

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
2000

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1930, Courier Tribune

An article in the December 11, 1930 Courier Tribune states a new enterprise will open in Seneca, the 13th, Saturday. They will be serving "King Oscar" coffee, made by Lester H. Davis, "the Coffee King," and made richer in looks and taste by cream from the finest Jersey herd in the county and will be served free to all visitors on Saturday.

The Old Dutch Mill will open formally, Saturday, giving residents of Seneca one more business and a first class coffee shop. They will also have a modern restaurant, but will also serve customers with gasoline, oils and general service for motor cars. It is located on a corner on highway 36, and is the first step in future development of this area.

The coffee shop is operated by Fred Moore, local manager, Mrs Moore will assist him as will Mrs. John Fuller, wife of the station manager. Three other persons are employed full time. There are living quarters above the coffee shop for the station manager. There will also be cabins for overnight travelers to rest along their journey down highway 36 and 63.

Five gasoline pumps have been installed and Standard Oil products are featured. There is a grease room with power equipment, etc. a very modern business and a great addition to Seneca.

* * *

Remembers Pony Express: Elder Jerome in Charge

Courier Tribune, 30 May, 1938

Samuel Jerome, Jr., who lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jerome, in Seneca in the years of 1866-67, writes The Courier-Tribune from San Jose, California. Thje elder Jerome was division superintendent of the Overland Stage line at that time and before and afterward was employed by the line at St. Joseph. Mr. Jerome is compiling data of historic inportance and The Courier-Tribune is referring him to John G. Ellenbecker of Marysville. who is an eminent authority on early history of this section of Kansas. Mr. Jerome seeks information regarding the killing of Dave McCanless, his nephew and neighbor, James Wood and Gordon at Rock Creek in July or August of 1862 by Wild Bill Hickok. Mr. Jerome recalls the Seneca stables, Guittard's station and several towns east and west. His mother kept his father's books and has the names of all employees. He is having two of the books rejuvenated as they had been used by two nieces as scrap books. Mr. Jerome will be 78 his next birthday.

Boy Scout organizations in Seneca have been asked to hold appropriate exercises and decorate the graves of three persons in the Seneca cemetery whose names appear on the records of the Pony Express organization as having had something to do with operation of the Pony Express. John E. Smith was the proprietor of the Seneca hotel station, George W. Johnson was an assistamt at the hotel and Edward (Sandy) Sterling cared for the horses. To this list might be added the name of Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Sterling who provided the meals for the riders and people enroute. Lineal descendents of the three men who are to be honored lived in this vicinity. Amos Smith is a grandson of John E. Smith, Mrs. Chester Gaston of Axtell and Mrs. FV. Turner, of Sabetha are daughters of George Johnson. Mrs. J. M. Thomson, Seneca and her sister, Mrs. Frank Corby of Kansas City are granddaughters of Mr. Sterling. Mr. Sterling met his bride, Anna Koch at the hotel and they were married soon afterward.

The native boulder at the corner of Main and Fourth street will bear a bronze tablet marking the site of the old dSmith hotel. The building is good condition was moved and stands on West Main. It is the home of Mrs. Alice Davis.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Marjorie Allison

NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Donnell Dunn, Largo, ND
Howard Dunn, Richardson, TX
Dick Miller, Seneca, KS

NEW HISTORICAL-GENEALOGY MEMBERS

Curtis Wichman, Lenexa, KS
Delores Polson, Vermillion, KS
Susan Cochren, Topeka, KS
Oliver Russ, Seneca, KS
Carol Hughes, Seneca, KS

Know Your State Park

Courier-Tribune, 25 May, 1939

The Nemaha county state park is the property of the people of Kansas. It is, however, the particular pride of Nemaha county, since it was the taxpayers of this county who paid the greater part of the cost of the right-of-way. Clip this information so that you will not need to guess when questioned about its size and other features.

Drainage area: 33.5 square miles.

Park area: 705.2 acres.

Lake area when at full reservoir: 356 acres.

Lake area, May 25, 1939: 325 acres, with water standing 18 inches below spillway level.

Volume of water: 3726.7 acre feet, that is, the equivalent of water one foot deep, over 3726.7 acres.

Average depth of water: 10.5 feet.

Maximum depth: About 25 feet.

Maximum length of lake: Two miles.

Park boundary: 7.36 miles.

Shore line of lake: 8 miles.

Length of dam: 2,470 feet.

Top width of dam: 40 feet.

Length parapet wall: 2,364 feet.

Height of dam above spillway water level: 10 feet.

Excavation required for spillway: 362,157 yards.

Earth required for dam: 392,300 cubic yards.

Rip-rap in face of dam: 4,510 cubic yards of stone.

Rip-rap in spillway inlet: 1,603 cubic yards.

Rip-rap in spillway outlet: 3697 cubic yards.

From another article next to this one, this lake was 6 years in the making. The plan for this recreation area originated in the spring of 1933, and will be completed approximately 2 months from May. It was opened to fishing on May 30, 1939. The article proclaims "this is the most ambitious project ever conceived by the people of Nemaha county"!

Who ever supposed Kempler store building would ever be used for business purposes again? Julius Tangeman is fixing up the old building. He is planning to install a gasoline pump. (Courier-Tribune 1938)

INDIAN RELICS IN A QUARRY

H.R. Levick Finds A Grinding Stone

An oblong stone and an oval-shape stone, hand-size, which probably would draw no more than a passing glance from the average person, attracted the attention of Street Commissioner H.R. Levick in the city's stone quarry on the Grollmes place, two miles west of Seneca. Mr. Levick recognized the stones for what they undoubtedly are, utensils for grinding meal and preparing skins. They were under a deposit of several feet of earth and may have lain there for hundreds of years.

The early history of the redman is mostly speculation but at Salina, where Mr. and Mrs. Levick visited an Indian burying ground containing more than 160 skeletons, archeologists say some of the interments were made at least 800 years ago. Mrs. Levick has a booklet showing the Salina excavations. Because the bones return to dust when exposed to air, they are shellacked very frequently and the entire site is protected by a building.

Extensive deposits showing permanent lodge or encampment of Indians never have been found in Nemaha county. The earliest histories say that a strip along the Nemaha was open hunting ground by common understanding among the tribes. Arrowheads are quite frequently discovered but it is rare to find stone utensils like those now being shown by the Levicks. The band, which camped at the site of the city quarry, may have been attacked, leaving its tools behind. Who knows? The grinding stone is polished rather smooth, indicating extensive use. The fleshing tool is iron-colored.

The Levicks have a hobby for collecting unusual stones. Some of the more extraordinary are large, smooth boulders, found 35 feet below the surface when the spillway was excavated at the state park. When broken apart--a very difficult thing to do--they show surprising congolmerates within--and tiny coral-like stalagmites and stalacites, indicating action of water. Some of then even contained quantities of brownish water.

(reprint: Courier Tribune, 4 December 1939)

12-21-77

Grandma Remembers

I remember one summer my cousin, May, came to spend a week on the farm. After my chores were done, we would get a couple of horses out of the barn and go for a ride. One day, we put the saddles on and rode around the section, a four mile ride. I always went barefoot in the summer and as the stirrups were too long for me, I put my feet through the straps above the stirrups. When we got home, I had a big blister on the side of each foot.

One day I had just put on a clean dress that I didn't usually wear for everyday, so my sister told me to be careful and keep it clean. It was a hard dress to iron and ironing in those days was a hot job in the summer. We had to make a hot fire in the cook stove and heat the irons. All the clothes had to be starched and ironed and sometimes ironing would take a whole day.

May and I wanted to go for a ride and were watering the horses at the tank. Dad always said to water the horses before we used them and again before we put them in the barn. I was sitting on the edge of the tank when the horse suddenly raised her head and pushed me in the tank. There I was, flat on my back in the water with my feet in the air, struggling to get out. May rushed over and pulled me out.

I went back to the house, my clean dress dripping wet, expecting the worst but sister thought the joke was on me.

Another day, Dad sent us out to rake alfalfa scatterings with the dump rake. We were almost ready to go home when we saw a big balloon in the sky. It was the 4th of July and Corning was having a celebration. May ran to the house to tell the girls and I ran to the barn to tell Dad and the boys. The horses almost beat me. They came running, the rake bouncing up and down and making lots of noise. Not many things were broken, but I was told never to leave horses standing untied again.

Journal Leader
Centralia

Reprinted from The Courier-Tribune, 6 July 1939

SO SHE HAD HER OWN WAY

Concealed a lease

Thus Grandmother Rising, Pioneer, Avoided Lonely Hours On Kansas Prairies

The Kickapoo reservation northeast of Wetmore was a dreary, lonely place in 1857. Far as the eye could reach, save only where a wooded ravine broke its expanse, the limitless prairies reached on and on. It was beauty to the poets, perhaps, but it brought no happiness to Mary E. Rising, the grandmother of Dr. Guy S. Graham, Wetmore, and great-grandmother of C.E. Rising, Seneca.

Dolly Madison hid the White House china so the Britishers wouldn't get it. Resourceful Dolly Madison, the woman who set a standard for social graces.

No less resourceful was Mary E. Rising, the wife of Noble H. Rising, the original Rising who came out from New York state to establish himself in Brown and Nemaha counties the same year Seneca was staked out as a townsite.

Noble H. Rising was an acquisitive New Yorker. He saw opportunities to accumulate where other men saw nothing. Saw chances to get on where his good wife saw only the waving blue stem. On his desire to get ahead, on his wife's great fear of the boundless plains and lurking savages, hangs this tale of a woman who would have her own way.

Noble H. Rising had been in Kansas only a short while before he started a stage station in the Kickapoo reservation, 10 miles northeast of Wetmore. He chose a spot on the old stage and army road which led from Ft. Leavenworth via Granada and Log Chain to Seneca, thence west to meet the Oregon trail at the Blue.

The stage station was but the beginning of his enterprises. He later set up small supply stores for settlers and the overland travelers at Granada and Sabetha. An in the meantime he executed a lease with the head men of the Kickapoo tribe.

A photo engraving of the lease is reproduced herewith. It is in Noble H. Rising's own handwriting. Granted by the Chiefs of the Prairie Band of the Kickapoo tribe, it gave "the said Rising the right to remain on our reservation as long as we remain thereon ourselves and to have the privilege of cutting hay and fencing in what ground he wants to till and of buying rails to fence said fields."

So Noble H. Rising went his way, trading and supplying the long caravans then wending their way to Oregon and "Californy". More and more he was away from the station at Kickapoo. Greater and greater grew his wife's loneliness, though she did have one son, Frank S. Rising, one daughter Alma M. Rising, mother of Guy S. Graham, for company.

Then one day a plan.

"Why not?" she asked herself.

So she concealed the lease, concealed it so carefully that it was not found until after she died at Wetmore in 1888 and Grandson Dr. Guy S. Graham came upon it in her personal effects.

One day came on inspector for the Indian service. Always the government had difficulty with whites who squatted on Indian lands.

History, of course, has not preserved the record but it is common knowledge among Rising descendants what was done.

"You have no lease?" the agent must have questioned, "well, then, perhaps you'd better move."

After leaving the Reservation, the Risings took over the Log Chain and remained there two years. A son, Don Rising, became one of the famous riders of the Pony Express, his station the Big Sandy and his route points west. Don Rising was the grandfather of Clarence E. Rising and an uncle of Dr. Dr. Guy S. Graham. Grandfather, the late Dr. J.W. Graham married Alma M. Rising, sister of Don, and daughter of Trader Noble H. Rising and Mary E. Rising, the woman who found a way.

Noble H. Rising died in Wetmore, June 18, 1875. His wife died there Nov. 24, 1888.

Secure Large Boulder For Pony Express Marker

Courier Tribune, 5 May 1938

The Seneca Chamber of Commerce has secured a fine boulder for the Seneca pony express Marker. Clifford W. Baldwin, committee chairman, said yesterday.

The stone will come from the farm of Ernest Reist, northeast of Seneca. It is deep red, with a beautiful streaking in black. The boulder is oblong. It will weigh two tons or more.

Reist is donating the stone and told the committee he felt a good deal of pride in having the marker come from his farm. The committee is hiring him to bring it to town, at $10 or possibly a little more if that can be afforded. Even here, Mr. Reist is likely donating, for it will be no little task to load the heavy boulder, some fence will have to be moved, it was thought, and there will be field damage in getting out the stone.

Mr. Reist planned to bring the stone to Seneca the last of this week or the first of next, though if the ground is wet this may delay the moving.

The stone is to be placed at the site of Seneca's pony express station, which was where the K. of C. building is now located, on east Main. The city of Seneca will lay a concrete base.

A circular bronze plaque, showing a rider on his mount, has already been received. Another bronze will be obtained for the local details. Tentative inscription is as follows,

To the Brave Men Who
Rode the Pony Express
1860-1861
Exact Location of the Home
Station
Seneca - Kansas

Mary and Joe, Chicago style

Mary and Joe were flat broke when they got off the bus in Chicago. They didn't know anybody and she was expecting a baby.

They went to a cheap hotel. But the clerk jerked his thumb at the door when they couldn't show a day's rent in advance.

Mike Royko

Chicago Ill.

They walked the streets until they saw a police station. The desk sergeant said they couldn't sleep in a cell, but he told them how to get to a welfare office.

A man there said they couldn't get regular assistance because they hadn't been Illinois residents long enough. But he gave them the address of the emergency welfare office on the West Side.

It was a two-mile walk up Madison Street. Someone gave them a card with a number on it and they sat down on a bench, stared at the peeling green paint and waited for their number to be called.

Two hours later, a caseworker motioned them forward, took out blank forms and asked questions: Any relatives? Any means of getting money? Any assets?

Joe said he owned a donkey. The caseworker told him not to get smart or he'd be thrown out. Joe said he was sorry.

The caseworker finished the forms and said they were entitled to emergency CTA fare to County Hospital because of Mary's condition. And he told Joe to go to an Urban Progress Center for occupational guidance.

Joe thanked him and they took a bus to the hospital. A guard told them to wait on a bench. They waited two hours, and then Mary got pains and they took her away. Someone told Joe to come back tomorrow.

He went outside and asked a stranger on the street for directions to an Urban Progress Center. The stranger hit Joe on the head and took his overcoat. Joe was still lying there when a paddy wagon came along, so they pinched him for being drunk on the street.

Mary had a baby boy during the night. She didn't know it, but three foreign-looking men in strange, colorful robes came to the hospital asking about her and the baby. A guard took them for hippies and called the police. They found odd spices on the men, so the narcotics detail took them downtown for further questioning.

The next day, Mary awoke io a crowded ward. She asked for Joe. Instead, a representative of the Planned Parenthood Committee came by to give her a lecture on birth control.

Next, a social worker came for her case history. She asked Mary who the father was. Mary answered and the social worker ran for the nurse. The nurse questioned her and Mary answered. The nurse stared at her and ran for the doctor. The doctor wrote "post partum delusion" on her chart.

An ambulance took Mary to the Cook County Mental Health Clinic the next morning. A psychiatrist asked her questions and pursed his lips at the answers.

A hearing was held and a magistrate committed her to the Chicago State Hospital.

Joe got out of the House of Correction a couple of days later and went to the County Hospital for Mary. They told him she was at Chicago State and the baby had been placed in a foster home by the State Department of Children and Family Services.

When Joe got to Chicago State, a doctor told him what Mary had said about the baby's birth. Joe said Mary was telling the truth. They put Joe in a ward at the other end of the hospital.

Meanwhile, the three strangely dressed, foreign-looking men were released after the narcotics detail could find no laws prohibiting the possession of myrrh and frankincense. They returned to the hospital and were taken for civil rights demonstrators. They were held in the County Jail on $100,000 bond.

By luck, Joe and Mary met on the hospital grounds. They decided to tell the doctors what they wanted to hear. The next day, they were declared sane and were released.

When they applied for custody of Mary's baby, however, they were told it was necessary for them to first establish a proper residence, earn a proper income and create a suitable environment.

They applied at the Urban Progress Center for training under the Manpower Development Program. Joe said he was good at working with wood. He was assigned to a computer data-processing class. Mary said she'd gladly do domestic work. She was assigned to a course in key-punch operating. Both got $20-a-week stipends.

Several months later, they finished the training. Joe got a job in a gas station and Mary went to work as a waitress.

They saved their money and hired a lawyer. Another custody hearing was held and several days later the baby was ordered returned to them.

Reunited finally, they got back to their two-room flat and met the landlord on the steps. He told them Urban Renewal had ordered the building torn down. The City Relocation Bureau would get them another place.

They packed, dressed the baby and hurried to the Greyhound bus station.

Joe asked the ticket man when the next bus was leaving.

"Where to?" the ticket man asked.

"Anywhere," Joe said, "as long as it is right now."

He gave Joe three tickets and in five minutes they were on a bus heading for southern Illinois — the area known as "Little Egypt."

Just as the bus pulled out, the three strangely-dressed men ran into the station. But they were too late. It was gone.

So they started hiking down U.S. 66. But at last report they were pinched on suspicion of being foreigners in illegal possession of gold.

(This Christmas column originally appeared in 1967 and has been reprinted many times since.)

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